

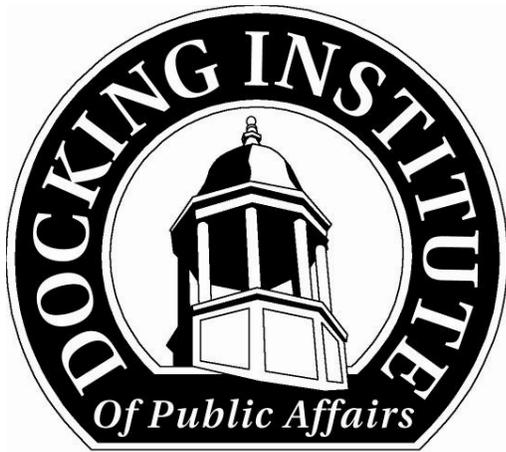


Kansas Speaks
2012
Statewide Public Opinion Survey

Prepared For
The Citizens of Kansas
By

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs
Fort Hays State University

Copyright © October 2012
All Rights Reserved



Fort Hays State University
600 Park Street
Hays, Kansas 67601-4099
Telephone: (785) 628-4197
FAX: (785) 628-4188
www.fhsu.edu/docking

Gary Brinker, PhD
Director

Michael S. Walker, MS
Assistant Director

Jian Sun, PhD
Research Scientist

Lynette Boys
Administrative Specialist

Catherine Rockey
Survey Center Manager

Mission:

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.

The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

Kansas Speaks 2012



Prepared By:

Jian Sun, Ph.D.
Research Scientist

Gary Brinker, Ph.D.
Director

Chapman Rackaway, Ph.D.
Policy Fellow

Docking Institute of Public Affairs

Prepared For:

The Citizens of Kansas
In pursuit of
Fort Hays State University's Public Affairs Mission

Copyright © October 2012
All Rights Reserved

Table of Contents

List of Figures.....	ii
Executive Summary.....	1
Introduction and Methods.....	7
Analysis.....	8
Section 1: Overall Quality of life in Kansas.....	8
Section 2: Economy.....	11
Section 3: Taxes.....	23
Section 4: State Government.....	34
Section 5: Energy Policy.....	41
Section 6: Public Policy Issues.....	50
Section 7: Presidential Election.....	66
Section 8: Changes from 2009 to 2012.....	69
Appendix A: Demographic Characteristics of the Sample.....	77
Appendix B: Mail Survey Questionnaire.....	79

List of Figures

Figure 1. Rating of Kansas as Overall Place to Live.....	8
Figure 3. Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Party Affiliation.....	9
Figure 3. Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Race.....	10
Figure 4. Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Voting Behavior.....	10
Figure 5. Rating of Kansas Economy.....	11
Figure 6. Rating of Kansas Economy by Education.....	11
Figure 7. Rating of Kansas Economy by Income.....	12
Figure 8. Rating of Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation.....	13
Figure 9. Rating of Kansas Economy by Voting Behavior.....	13
Figure 10. Satisfaction Levels with Governor’s and State Party Leaders’ Effort to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy.....	14
Figure 11. Satisfaction Levels with Governor’s Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Education.....	15
Figure 12. Satisfaction Levels with Governor’s Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation.....	15
Figure 13. Satisfaction Levels with Governor’s Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Voting Behavior.....	16
Figure 14. Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Age.....	17
Figure 15. Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Gender.....	17
Figure 16. Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Income.....	18
Figure 17. Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation.....	18
Figure 18. Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Education.....	19
Figure 19. Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation.....	19
Figure 20. Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders’ Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Race.....	20
Figure 21. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare...	20
Figure 22. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare by Age.....	21

Figure 23. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare by Education.....	21
Figure 24. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare by Gender.....	22
Figure 25. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare by Income.....	22
Figure 26. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare by Party Affiliation.....	23
Figure 27. Opinions on Changes of Income Tax, Sales Tax, and Property Tax.....	24
Figure 28. Opinions on Income Tax Change by Education.....	24
Figure 29. Opinions on Income Tax Change by Party Affiliation.....	25
Figure 30. Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Education.....	26
Figure 31. Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Gender.....	26
Figure 32. Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Income.....	27
Figure 33. Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Race.....	27
Figure 34. Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Voting Behavior.....	28
Figure 35. Opinions on Property Tax Change by Income.....	28
Figure 36. Opinions on Property Tax Change by Party Affiliation.....	29
Figure 37. Tax Changes on Different Groups.....	30
Figure 38. Tax Change on Middle Class by Education.....	30
Figure 39. Tax Change on Middle Class by Income.....	31
Figure 40. Tax Change on Large Corporation by Gender.....	32
Figure 41. Tax Change on Large Corporation by Income.....	32
Figure 42. Tax Change on Top Income Earners by Party Affiliation.....	33
Figure 43. Tax Change on Large Corporation by Party Affiliation.....	33
Figure 44. Tax Change on Small Businesses by Party Affiliation.....	34
Figure 45. Rating of Kansas State Government.....	34
Figure 46. Rating of Kansas State Government by Education.....	35
Figure 47. Rating of Kansas State Government by Party Affiliation.....	35
Figure 48. Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature and Governor.....	36
Figure 49. Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature by Education.....	37
Figure 50. Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature by Party Affiliation.....	37
Figure 51. Satisfaction with Performance of Governor Brownback by Education.....	38
Figure 52. Satisfaction with Performance of Governor Brownback by Party Affiliation.....	38
Figure 53. Satisfaction with Performance of Governor Brownback by Voting Behavior.....	39
Figure 54. Opinion on Kansas Government Spending.....	39

Figure 55. Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Education.....	40
Figure 56. Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Hispanic Origin.....	40
Figure 57. Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Party Affiliation.....	41
Figure 58. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal, Oil, Wind, and Nuclear Energy.....	42
Figure 59. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal by Education.....	43
Figure 60. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Age.....	43
Figure 61. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Education.....	44
Figure 62. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Income.....	44
Figure 63. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy by Gender.....	45
Figure 64. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy by Income.....	46
Figure 65. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy by Race.....	46
Figure 66. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Nuclear Energy by Gender.....	47
Figure 67. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal by Party Affiliation.....	48
Figure 68. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Party Affiliation.....	48
Figure 69. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind by Party Affiliation.....	49
Figure 70. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Nuclear by Party Affiliation.....	49
Figure 71. Opinion on State Funding for State Education and Social Services.....	50
Figure 72. Opinion on State Funding for Grade Kindergarten through High School by Gender.....	51
Figure 73. Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities by Gender.....	51
Figure 74. Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Gender.....	52
Figure 75. Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Party Affiliation.....	52
Figure 76. Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities by Party Affiliation.....	53
Figure 77. Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Party Affiliation.....	53
Figure 78. Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Age.....	54
Figure 79. Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Education.....	55
Figure 80. Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities by Education.....	55
Figure 81. Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Age.....	56
Figure 82. Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Income.....	56
Figure 83. Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Voting Behavior.....	57
Figure 84. Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.....	57
Figure 85. Opinion on the Supreme Court’s Decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.....	58
Figure 86. Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Gender.....	58
Figure 87. Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Party Affiliation.....	59
Figure 88. Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Voting Behavior.....	59
Figure 89. Opinion on the Supreme Court’s Decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Education.....	60

Figure 90. Opinion on the Supreme Court’s Decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Party Affiliation.....	61
Figure 91. Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification.....	62
Figure 92. Intension to Obtain a Government-issued Photo Identification.....	62
Figure 93. Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Age.....	63
Figure 94. Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Education.....	63
Figure 95. Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Race.....	64
Figure 96. Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Voting Behavior.....	64
Figure 97. Difficulty to Provide Birth Certification.....	65
Figure 98. Difficulty to Provide Birth Certification by Income.....	65
Figure 99. Difficulty to Provide Birth Certification by Party Affiliation.....	66
Figure 100. Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election.....	67
Figure 101. Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Gender.....	67
Figure 102. Vote in 2012 Presidential Election by Income.....	68
Figure 103. Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Party Affiliation.....	68
Figure 104. Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Voting Behavior.....	69
Figure 105. Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live: 2009-2012.....	70
Figure 106. Rating of Kansas State Government: 2009-2012.....	70
Figure 107. Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals’ or Families’ Welfare: 2009-2012.....	71
Figure 108. Tax Change on Top income Earners: 2009-2012.....	72
Figure 109. Tax Change on Middle Class: 2009-2012.....	72
Figure 110. Tax Change on Large Corporations: 2009-2012.....	73
Figure 111. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil: 2009-2012.....	74
Figure 112. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind: 2009-2012.....	74
Figure 113. Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Nuclear Energy: 2009-2012.....	75
Figure 114. Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School: 2009-2012.....	76
Figure 115. Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities: 2009-2012.....	76

Executive Summary

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University conducted the 2011 Kansas Speaks survey from May 21 to September 6, 2012. A random sample of adult residents of Kansas age 18 and older was surveyed by telephone or mail questionnaire to assess their attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. The survey finds:

- More than eighty percent (86.7%) of respondents felt Kansas was a “good,” “very good,” or “excellent” place to live in, and 4.2% felt Kansas was a “poor” or “very poor” place to live in. Republican respondents were more likely to feel that Kansas was at least a “good” place to live in than Democratic respondents. White respondents or those who had voted in November 2012 were more likely to rate Kansas as a “very good” or “excellent” place to live in.
- Almost half (46.8%) of respondents felt the Kansas economy was “good,” “very good,” or “excellent.” Respondents were less likely to feel the Kansas economy was “poor” or “very poor” when they had higher education (as compared with those who had lower education) or higher income (as compared with those who had lower income) , identified themselves as Republicans (as compared with Democrats), or had voted in 2010 (as compared with those who did not vote).
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents were “moderately” or “very satisfied” with Governor Brownback’s efforts and Kansas Republican Party leaders’ efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy, and 27.8% were “moderately” or “very satisfied” with Kansas Democratic Party leaders’ efforts.
- Respondents who were Republican or leaning Republican were more likely to feel “very” or “moderately” satisfied with Governor Brownback’s efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy than Democratic respondents and independent voters. Respondents with higher education were less likely to feel so than those with lower education. Respondents who voted in 2010 were more likely to be “very satisfied” or “very dissatisfied” than those who did not vote.
- Younger respondents were less likely to feel “very” or “moderately” satisfied with Democratic Party leaders’ efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy than older respondents. Male respondents were less likely to feel “very” or “moderately” satisfied with the Democratic Party leaders’ efforts than female respondents. Respondents were also less likely to feel “very” or “moderately” satisfied when they had higher family income (as compared with those who had lower income) or identified themselves as Republicans or leaning Republican (as compared with Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic).

- Respondents were more likely to feel “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Republican Party leaders’ efforts to improve the health of the Kansas Economy when they had lower levels of education (as compared with those with higher education), were Republicans or leaning Republican (as compared with Democrats and those leaning Democratic), or were white (as compared with other racial groups).
- About seventy percent (69.5%) of respondents were “very” concerned” or “moderately concerned” that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten them or their families’ welfare. Older respondents were more likely to feel “very concerned” or “moderately concerned” than younger respondents. Respondents with lower education were more likely to feel concerned than those with higher education. Female respondents were more likely to feel concerned than male respondents. Respondents with lower family income were more concerned than those with higher income. Democrats and those leaning Democratic were more likely to be concerned than Republicans and those leaning Republican.
- Most of the respondents prefer to leave the tax rates for income tax, sales tax, and property tax at their current levels. About sixteen percent (16.4%) of respondents thought that income tax should be “significantly” or “somewhat increased.” More than twenty percent (21.7%) of respondents thought that sales tax should be “significantly” or “somewhat increased,” and 52.2% of respondents thought that property tax should be “somewhat” or “significantly decreased” (Figure 27).
- Respondents with higher education were more likely to say the income tax should be “somewhat” or “significantly increased” than those with lower education, so were Democrats and those leaning Democratic as compared with Republicans and those leaning Republican.
- Respondents were more likely to support sales tax to be “somewhat increased” or “significantly increased” when they had higher education (as compared with those with lower education), higher income (as compared with those with lower income), or voted in 2010 (as compared with those who did not vote). White respondents were more likely to support sales tax increase than other racial groups.
- Respondents with lower family income were more likely to support property tax increase than those with higher family income, so were those respondents who were Democrats or leaning Democratic as compared with those who were Republican and leaning Republican.
- More than half (51.5%) of respondents thought taxes on small businesses should be decreased.
- Almost sixty percent (57.7%) of respondents believed that taxes on large corporations should be increased.

- Almost one-third (31.9%) of respondents thought that taxes on middle class should be decreased, and 63.5% said taxes on middle class should remain the same.
- More than half (55.8%) of respondents taxes on top income earners should be increased, while only 9.1% said they should be decreased.
- Respondents with higher education were more likely to support tax increase on middle class.
- Except for those respondents whose family income was \$150,000 or more, respondents with lower family income were more likely to support tax increase on middle class.
- Male respondents were less likely to support tax increase on large corporations than female respondents, so were respondents with higher family income as compared with those with lower family income.
- Respondents who were strong Democrats, Democrats, independent leaning Democratic and independent were more likely to support tax increases on top income earners, large corporations, and, to a lesser degree, small businesses than Republicans and respondents leaning Republican.
- About forty percent (40.3%) of respondents felt that the Kansas state government's performance was at "good," "very good," or "excellent."
- In general, respondents with higher education were less likely to feel the Kansas state government was "poor" or "very poor."
- Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were less likely to think the Kansas state government was "excellent" or "very good" than Republican respondents, those leaning Republican, and independent voters.
- Thirty percent (30%) of respondents were "moderately" or "very satisfied" with the performance of the Kansas legislature.
- Respondents with higher education were more likely to feel "very" or "moderately dissatisfied" with the performance of the Kansas legislature than those with lower income, so were those respondents who were Democrats or leaning Democratic as compared with those who were Republican or leaning Republican.
- Almost forty percent (39.6%) of respondents were "moderately" or "very satisfied" with the performance of Governor Brownback.
- Respondents with higher education were more likely to be "very" or "moderately dissatisfied" with the performance of Governor Brownback. Republican respondents, independent voters, and those who voted in 2010 were more likely to be "moderately" or "very satisfied" with Governor Brownback's performance.

- About half (50.4%) of respondents thought Kansas government spending should be decreased, 31.8% thought it should remain the same, and 17.7% thought it should be increased.
- In general, respondents with higher education were more likely to support Kansas government spending to be increased. Hispanic respondents were also more likely to support spending increase than non-Hispanic respondents. Respondents who were Democratic and leaning Democratic were more likely to support spending increase than those who were Republican or leaning Republican.
- About three quarters (75.3%) of respondents thought it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop wind energy. About two thirds (66.9%) of respondents thought it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop oil. Half (50.9%) of respondents thought developing coal was “extremely important” or “important.” Less than forty percent (37.1%) of respondents felt developing nuclear energy was “extremely important” or “important.”
- In general, respondents with higher education were more likely to think it was “not at all important” or “somewhat important” for Kansas to develop coal.
- Respondents were less likely to think it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop oil when they had higher education (as compared with those with lower education), had higher family income (as compared with those with lower family income), or were 35 years to 64 years old (as compared with those who were younger and older).
- Respondents were less likely to think it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop wind energy when they were male (as compared with female respondents), or African American or biracial (as compared with other racial groups), or when they had higher family income (as compared with those with lower family income).
- Male respondents were more likely to support the development of nuclear energy than female respondents.
- As compared with Republican respondents and those leaning Republican, Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were generally less likely to say it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of coal, oil, and nuclear energy, but more likely to say it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of wind energy.
- Almost sixty percent (57.9%) of respondents thought the state funding for grades kindergarten through high school (K-12) should be increased.

- More than a third (35.3%) of respondents thought the state funding for state colleges and universities should be increased, and 48.8% preferred to keep the funding at its current level.
- Almost half (47%) of respondents thought the state funding for social services should be increased.
- Female respondents were more likely to support a state funding increase for K-12 and higher education and social services than male respondents.
- Compared with Republican respondents and those leaning Republican, Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to support a state funding increase for education and social services.
- Younger respondents were more likely to support a state funding increase for K-12 education than older respondents.
- In general, respondents with higher education were more likely to support a state funding increase for K-12 education and state colleges and universities.
- Except for respondents who were 65 years old and older, older respondents were more likely to support a state funding increase for social services.
- Respondents were less likely to support increased state funding for social services when they had higher family income or had voted in 2010.
- Before the U.S. Supreme Court issued the decision to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in June 2012, 46.2% of respondents “strongly” or “somewhat supported” the effort to repeal the act. Male respondents were more likely to support repealing ObamaCare than female respondents. Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were less likely to support the repealing effort than independent voters, Republicans and those leaning Republican. Respondents who voted in 2010 were more likely to support the repealing effort than those who did not vote.
- After the U.S. Supreme Court issued the decision to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in June 2012, 61.2% of respondents thought that the Supreme Court had made the wrong decision to uphold the act. Respondents with higher education were more likely to think the Supreme Court made the right decision. Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to think the Supreme Court made the right decision than those who were Republican, independent leaning Republican, and independent.
- Almost all (97.9%) of respondents currently had a government-issued photo identification. Among those who did not have one, 55.6% said they intended to obtain one.

- Respondents who were 65 years old and older were much less likely to have a government-issued photo identification than those who were younger than 65 years. Respondents who did not vote in 2010 were less likely to have such identification than those who voted. African American and those who consider themselves as being in “other” racial group were also less likely to have such identification than other racial groups.
- Almost twenty percent (19.3%) of respondents indicated that it would be “somewhat” or “very difficult” for them to provide their birth certification. In general, respondents with higher family income were less likely to feel it was “somewhat” or “very difficult” to provide birth certification than those with lower family income. Democrat respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to feel “somewhat” or “very difficult” than those respondents who were Republican, independent leaning Republican, and independent.
- More than forty percent (44.3%) of respondents indicated that they would have voted for Mitt Romney if the 2012 Presidential Election had been held on the day they were surveyed, and 30.2% would had voted for Barack Obama. Male respondents were more likely to vote for Mitt Romney, and female respondents were more likely to vote for Barack Obama. Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to vote for Barack Obama, and independent voters, Republican respondents and those leaning Republican were more likely to vote for Mitt Romney. Respondents who did not vote in 2012 were more likely to be “undecided” than those who voted.
- Respondent’s rating of Kansas as a place to live declined between 2009 and 2012.
- Respondent’s rating of the Kansas state government declined between 2009 and 2012.
- Compared with 2009, respondents became more concerned in 2012 that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten their or their families’ welfare in the coming year.
- Compared with 2009, respondents in 2012 were more likely to support a tax increase on top income earners and large corporations, and more likely to support unchanged tax on middle class.
- Respondent’s support of oil energy development increased from 2009 to 2012. Respondent’s support of wind and nuclear energy declined from 2009 to 2012. Respondent’s support of coal did not change significantly.
- Respondent’s support to increase state funding for K-12 increased between 2009 and 2012. The support of state funding for state colleges and universities declined from 2009 to 2012.

Introduction and Methods

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University surveyed a random sample of adult residents of Kansas age 18 and older to assess attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. The survey was administered through both telephone and mail, utilizing an addressed-based sampling technique to facilitate the most representative sample possible. Respondents for whom telephone numbers were available were surveyed by telephone. Those respondents for whom no phone number was available were mailed the questionnaire and a self-addressed business reply envelope. The telephone survey was conducted from May 21 to August 27, 2012, when 1,415 households were contacted via telephone. A total of 753 households completed the telephone survey, resulting in a 53.2% response rate (753/1,415). The survey questionnaires were mailed to 3,087 households on July 23, 2012. By September 6, the end of the data collection period, 34 mail invitations were returned as undeliverable, and 175 questionnaires were completed and mailed back to the Docking Institute. The valid population size for the mail survey was thus 3,053 (3,087 – 34), and the response rate for the mail survey was 5.7% (175/3,053). With a total of 928 households completing the survey, the overall response rate was 20.8% (928/4,468). At a 95% confidence level, the margin of error for the full sample of 928 is 3.22%, assuming no response bias. A margin of error of 3.22% means that there is a 95% probability that findings among the sample vary no more than +/- 3.22% from the value that would be found if the entire population of interest (adult Kansas residents) were surveyed, assuming no response bias. Sample demographics were compared to known Census-based distributions (see Appendix A). The sample matches closely with all Census-based distributions except race, Hispanic origin and age. The survey had higher response rates among Kansas residents who are white, non-Hispanic and those over 55. Therefore, the overall population estimates are biased toward the opinions of white, non-Hispanic and older Kansans.

This following analysis contains eight sections. The first seven sections present not only descriptive analyses of respondents' answers to each question, but also statistically significant relationships with key demographic variables to see how citizens in various social categories differ in their opinions on various issues. The last section compares respondents' answers in 2012 with those in 2009, the year Kansas Speaks was inaugurated. These eight sections are:

- 1) **Overall Quality of life in Kansas.** This section shows how Kansans generally feel about Kansas as a place to live.
- 2) **Economy.** This section shows results to questions addressing various economic concerns to citizens.

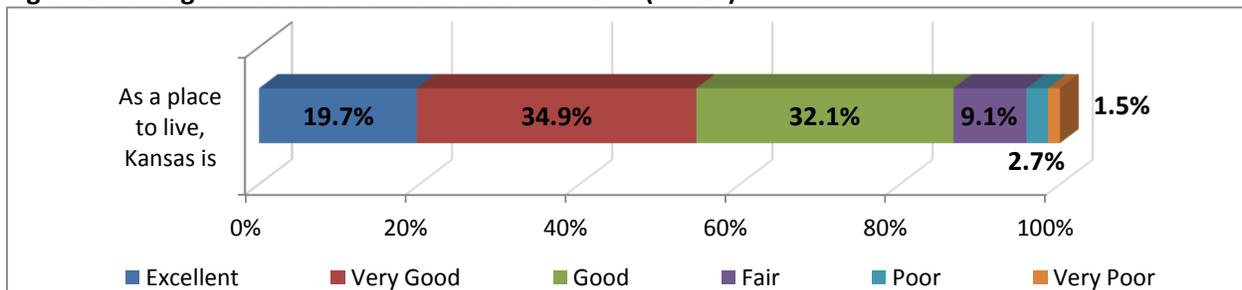
- 3) **Taxes.** This section shows results to opinion questions regarding fair and effective personal and business taxation policies.
- 4) **State Government.** This section presents the results of citizens' ratings of the state government in general, as well as their state government elected officials.
- 5) **Energy Policy.** A key component of this study is to assess the level of citizen support for public resources being devoted to developing various sources of energy production, including oil, coal, wind, and nuclear.
- 6) **Public Policy Issues.** This section looks at citizens' opinions on several key policy issues, including health care, education, and issues related to the election.
- 7) **Presidential Election.** This section presents citizens' intended choice of the next President of the United States.
- 8) **Changes from 2009 to 2012.** Kansas Speaks asks a set of questions every year since 2009. This section presents significant differences between respondents' answers to those questions in 2012 and those in 2009.

Analysis

Section 1: Overall Quality of life in Kansas

Respondents were asked to rate Kansas generally as a place to live. Among those 923 respondents who provided valid answers to this question, 19.7% said Kansas was an “excellent” place to live in, 34.9% felt Kansas was a “very good” place to live in, and 32.1% believed Kansas was a “good” place to live in. Only 2.7% of respondents said Kansas was a “poor” place to live in, and 1.5% answered “very poor” (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live (n=923)



Question: *In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live?*

Respondent’s opinion of the quality of life was significantly related to respondent’s party affiliation. Compared with strong Democratic respondents and independent voters leaning Democratic, Republican respondents were more likely to feel that Kansas was at least a “good” place to live in. Almost seventy percent (68.6%) of respondents who considered themselves strong Republicans said that Kansas was an “excellent” or “very good” place to live in, while 35.1% of respondents who considered themselves strong Democrats said so (Figure 2).

Respondents with different races and voting behaviors also varied significantly in their opinions on the quality of life. White respondents were more likely to say that Kansas was an “excellent” or “very good” place to live in than other racial groups. Black or African American respondents were least likely to say so. Among white respondents, 56.6% rated Kansas as an “excellent” or “very good” place to live in. Only 15.4% of African American respondents felt Kansas was “excellent” or “very good” to live in (Figure 3). More than half (56.6%) of respondents who voted in November 2010 said that Kansas was an “excellent” or “very good” place to live in. Forty percent (40%) of respondents who did not vote in November 2010 said so (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Party Affiliation

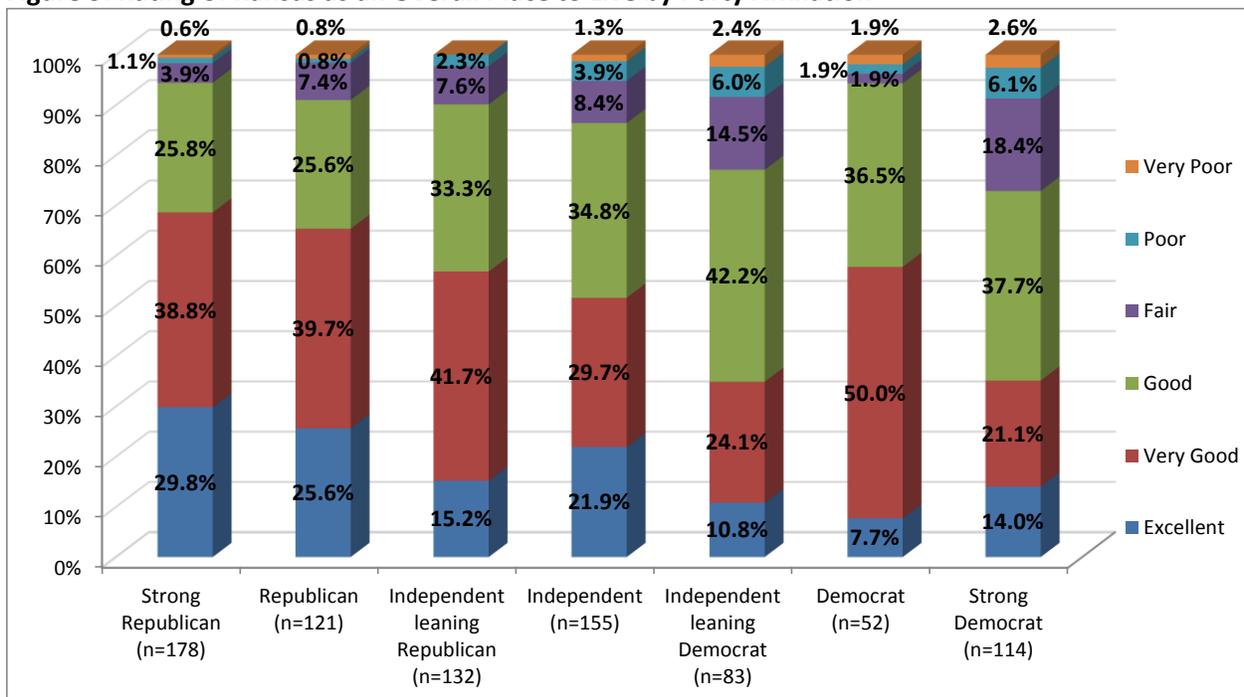


Figure 3: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Race

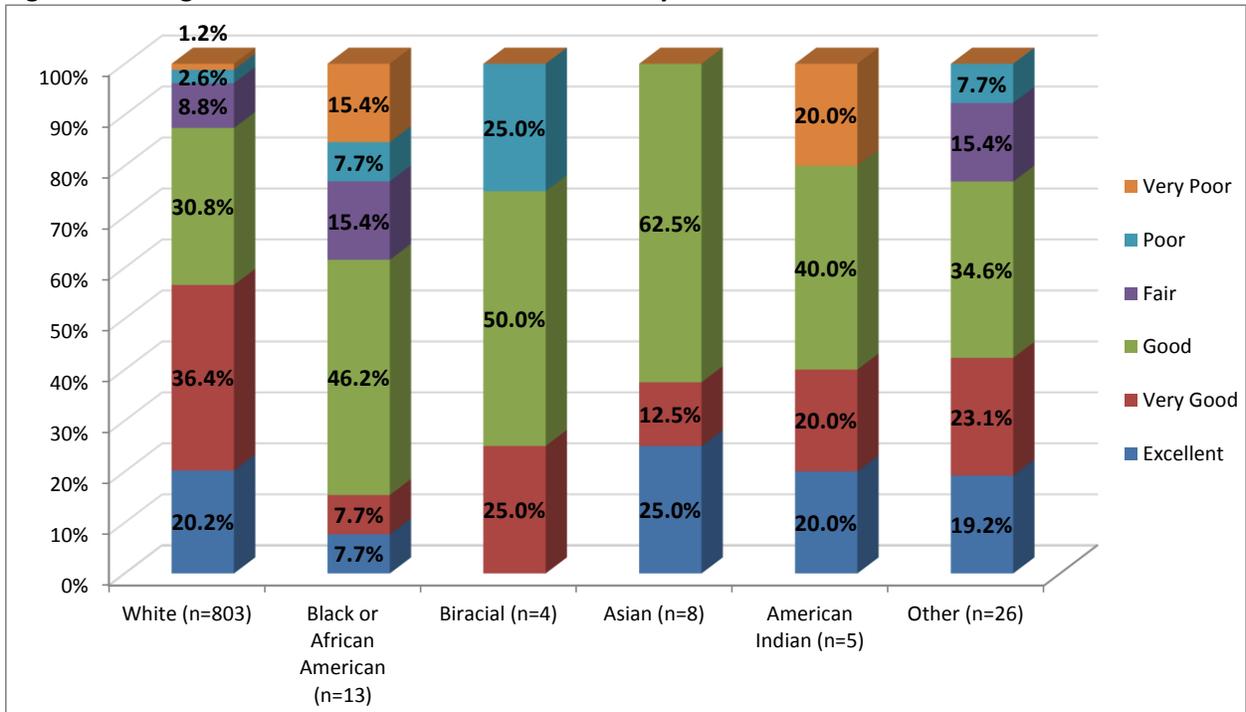
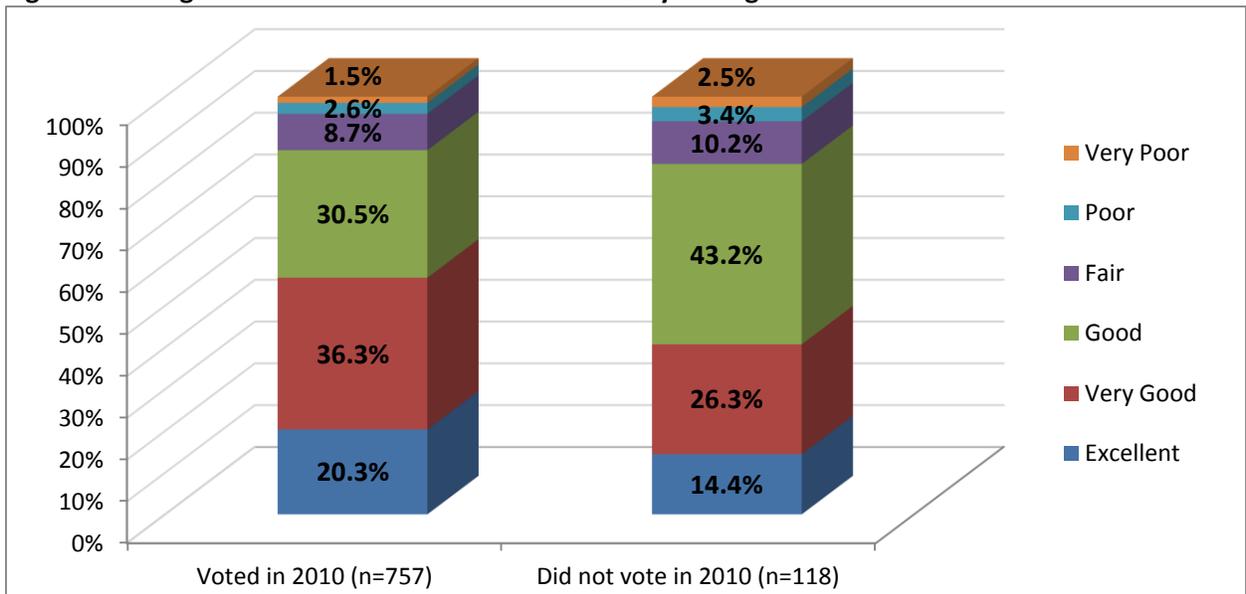


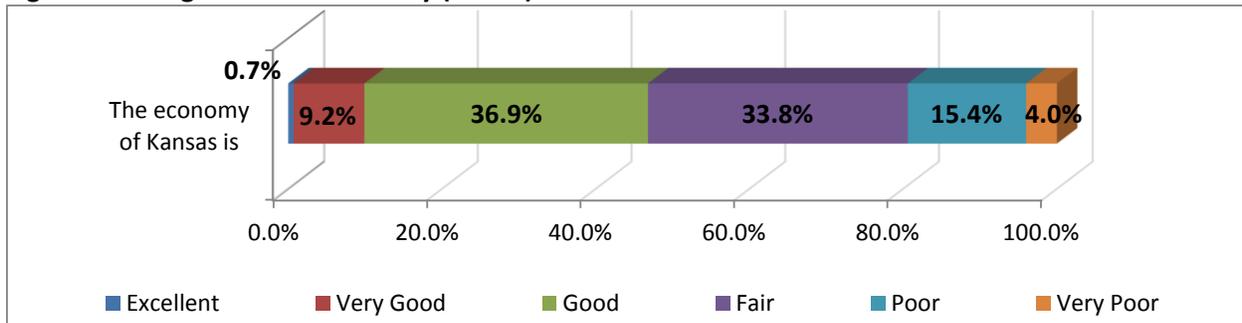
Figure 4: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Voting Behavior



Section 2: Economy

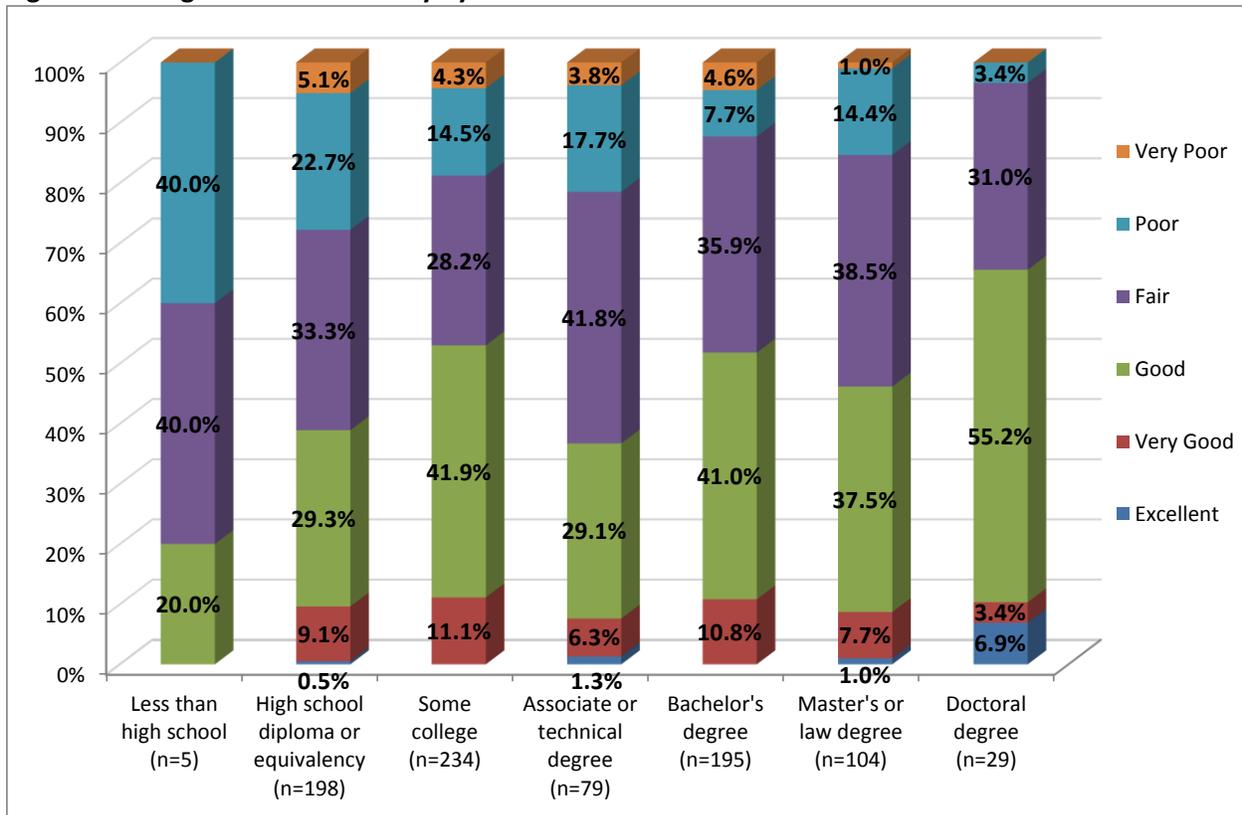
When asked to rate the Kansas economy, 46.8% of 910 respondents who provided valid answers said it was at least “good,” while 19.4% said Kansas had a “poor” or “very poor” economy (Figure 5). Rating of the economy was significantly associated with respondent’s highest education level. People with higher education were less likely to think the Kansas economy was “poor” or “very poor.” Among respondents with doctoral degrees, 3.4% felt the Kansas economy was “poor.” In contrast, 40% of respondents who did not have high school diplomas felt so (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Rating of Kansas Economy (n=910)



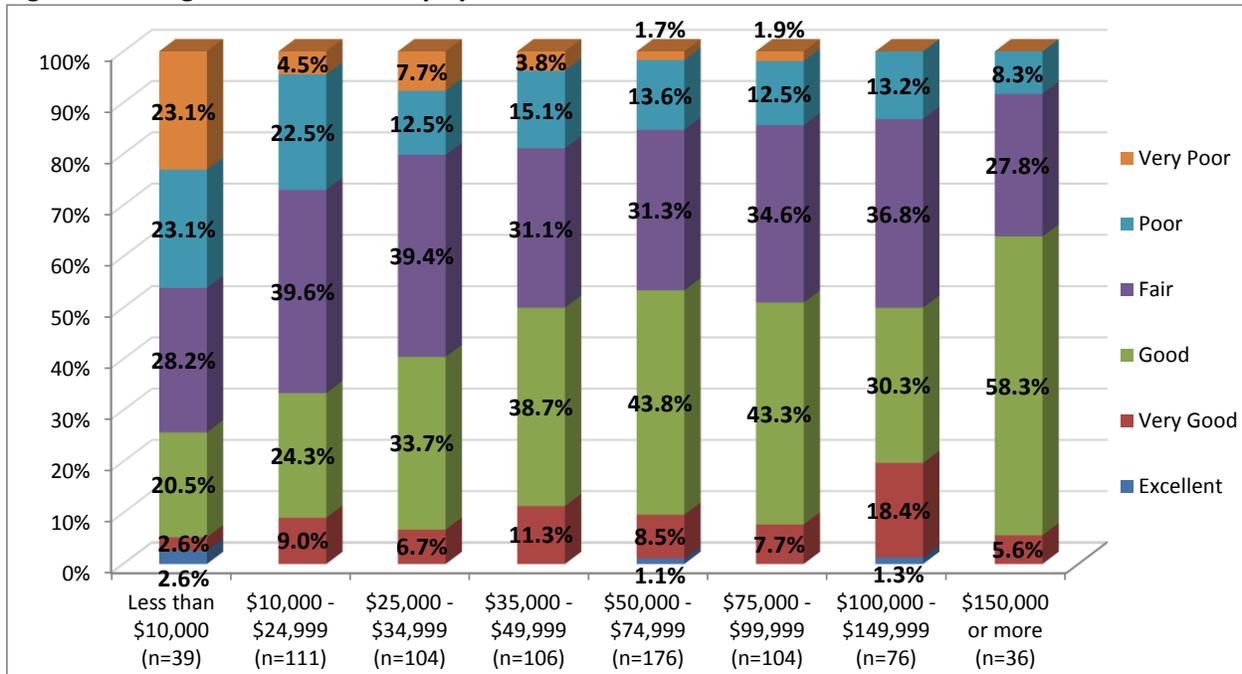
Question: *In general, how would you rate the Kansas economy?*

Figure 6: Rating of Kansas Economy by Education



Respondents' ratings of the economy varied significantly by their family income. Respondents who had higher family income were more likely to feel the Kansas economy was at least "good" and less likely to feel it was "poor" or "very poor." Among respondents whose family incomes were less than \$10,000 in 2011, 46.2% thought the Kansas economy was "poor" or "very poor," while 25.1% felt it was at least "good." Among respondents whose family income were \$150,000 or more, 63.9% felt the Kansas economy was at least "good," only 8.3% felt it was "poor" (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Rating of Kansas Economy by Income



Respondent's rating of the economy was significantly associated with the party affiliation and voting behavior variables. Republican respondents were more likely to feel the Kansas economy was at least "good" than respondents who were Democrats. About sixty percent (60.8%) of respondents who considered themselves strong Republicans felt the Kansas economy was at least "good," while 42.9% of respondents who considered themselves strong Democrats felt the same (Figure 8). Respondents who voted in 2010 were less likely to say the Kansas economy was "poor" or "very poor." Among those respondents who voted in 2010, 17.8% felt the Kansas economy was "poor" or "very poor." Almost thirty percent (28.7%) of respondents who did not vote in 2010 felt so (Figure 9).

Figure 8: Rating of Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation

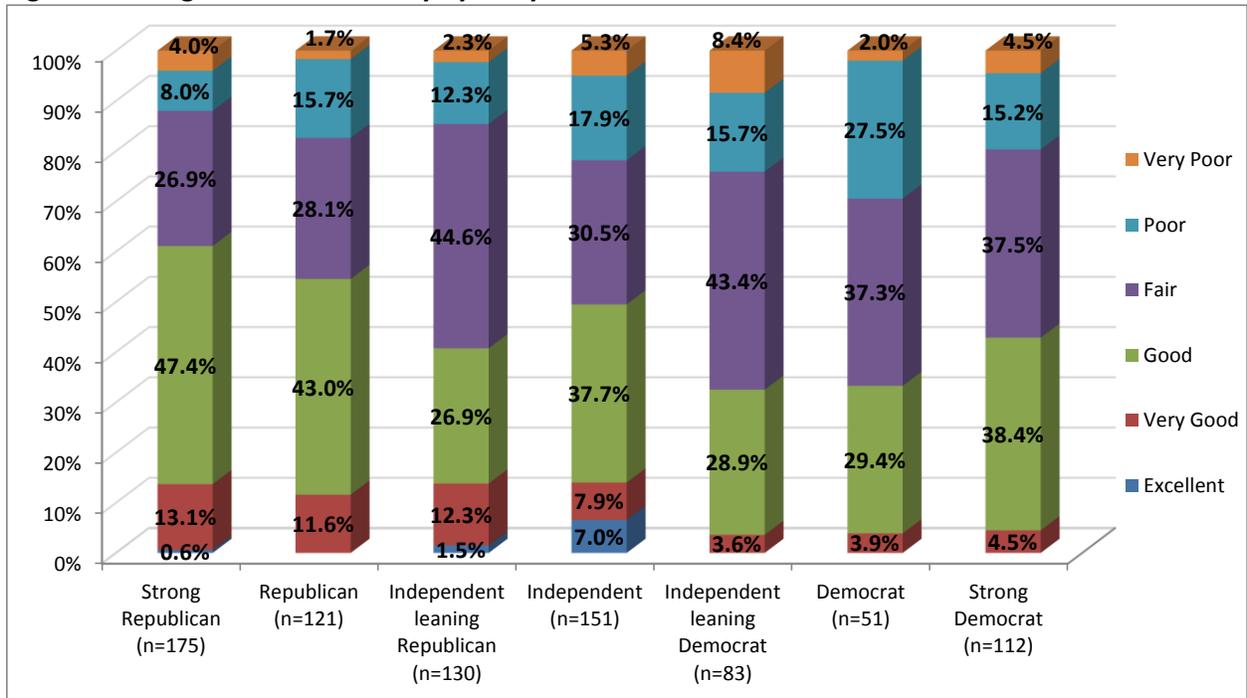
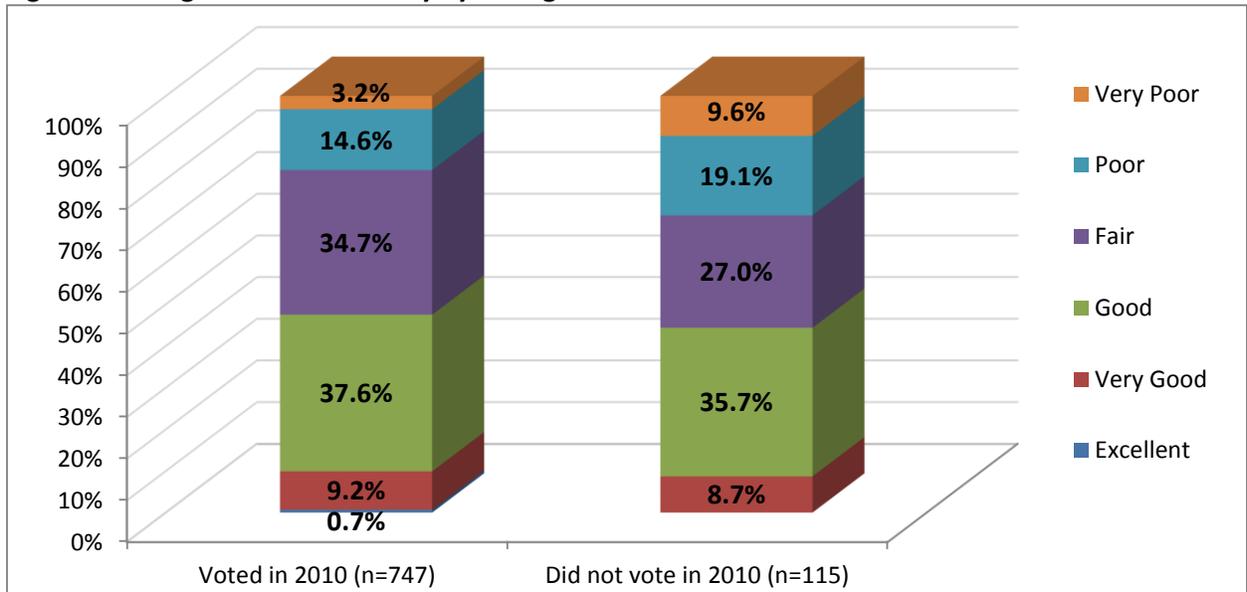


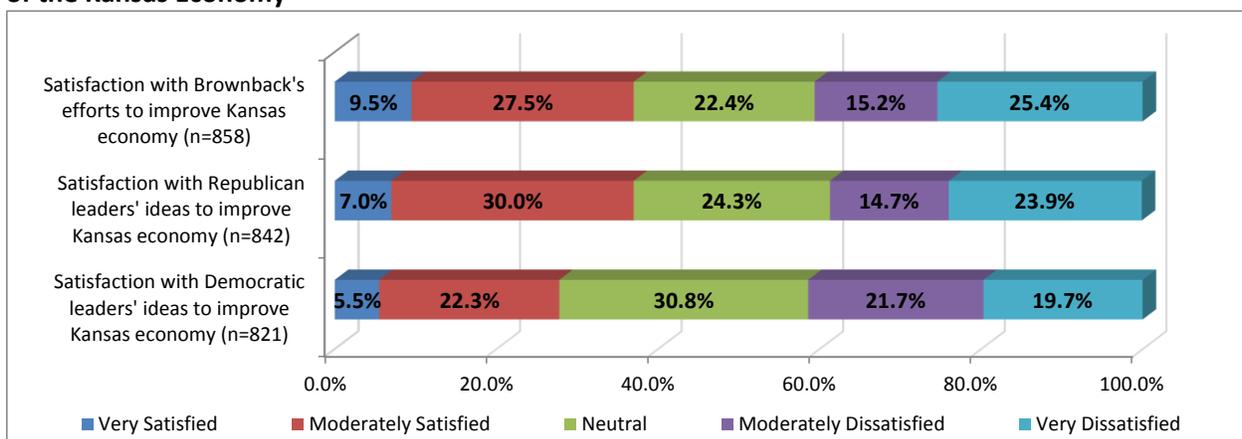
Figure 9: Rating of Kansas Economy by Voting Behavior



The survey continued by asking respondents' satisfaction levels with Governor Brownback's and state party leaders' efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents were "moderately" or "very satisfied" with Governor Brownback's efforts and Kansas Republican Party leaders' efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy. The percentage of respondents who were "moderately" or "very satisfied" with Kansas Democratic leaders' efforts was 27.8% (Figure 10).

Respondent's satisfaction with Governor Brownback's efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy was related to education, party affiliation and voting behavior. In general, respondents with higher education were less likely to be satisfied with Governor Brownback's efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy. More than forty percent (43.6%) of respondents whose highest levels of education were high school or equivalent felt "very satisfied" or "moderately satisfied" with Governor Brownback's efforts, whereas 24.1% of respondents with doctoral degrees felt "very satisfied" or "moderately satisfied" (Figure 11). Respondents who were Republican or leaning Republican were more likely to feel "very satisfied" or "moderately satisfied" with Governor Brownback's efforts than those who were Democratic or leaning Democratic (Figure 12). Respondents who voted in 2010 were more likely to feel "very satisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with governor's efforts than those who did not vote (Figure 13).

Figure 10: Satisfaction Levels with Governor's and State Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy



Question: How satisfied are you with Governor Brownback's and state party leaders' efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy?

Figure 11: Satisfaction Levels with Governor's Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Education

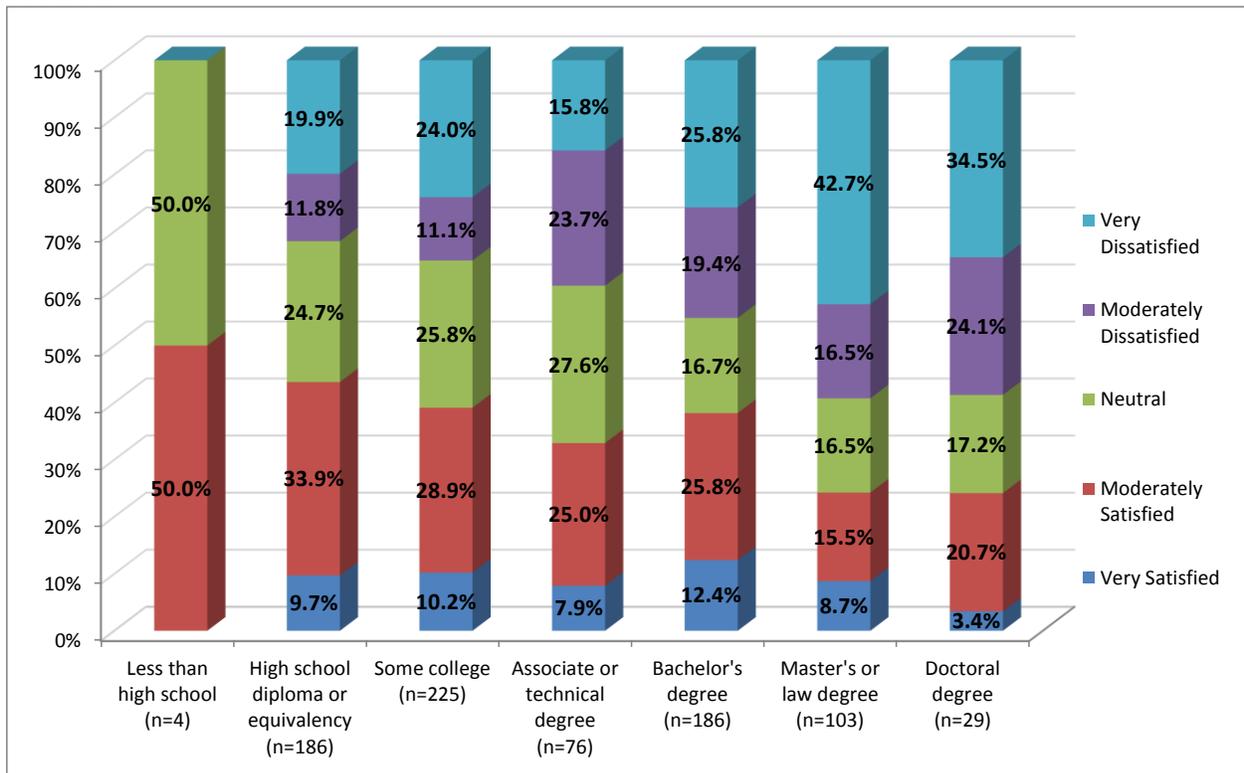


Figure 12: Satisfaction Levels with Governor's Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation

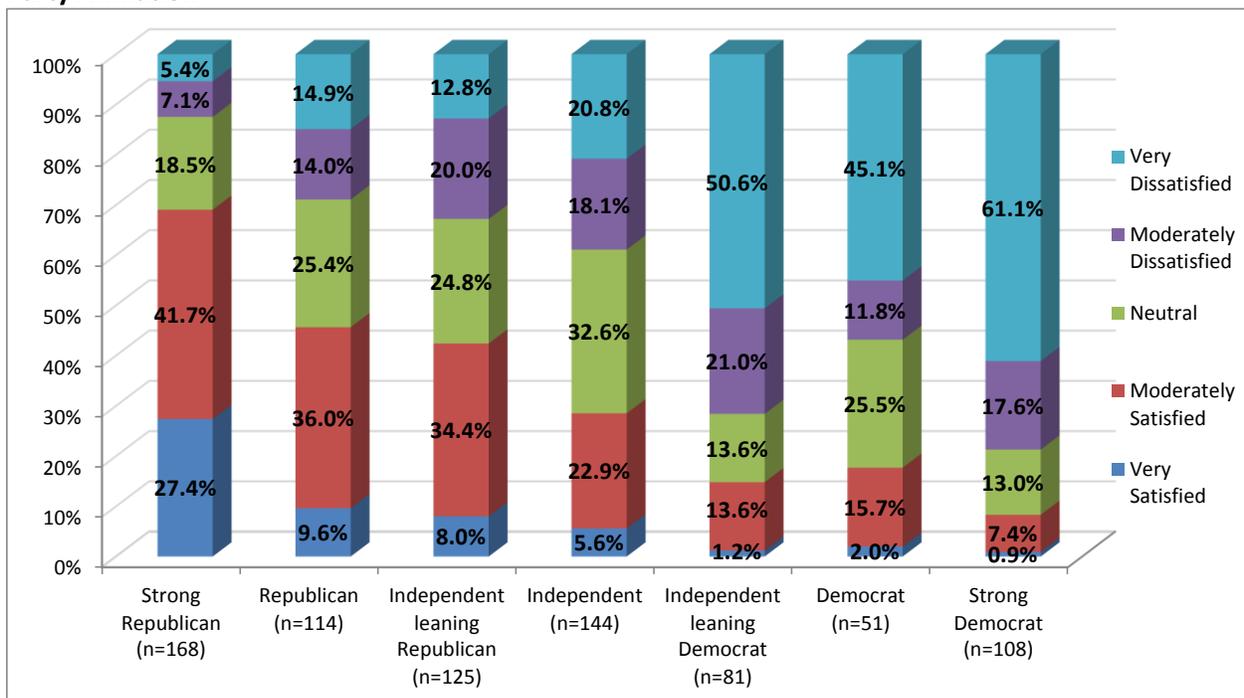
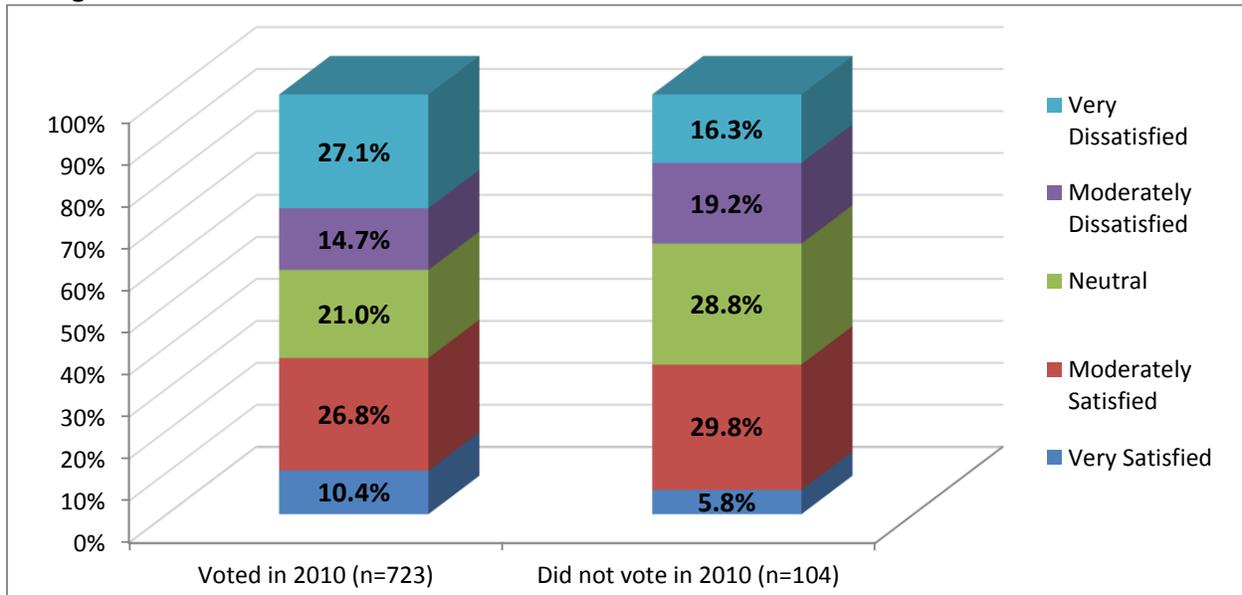


Figure 13: Satisfaction Levels with Governor’s Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Voting Behavior



Respondent’s satisfaction with Kansas Democratic Party leaders’ efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy was significantly associated with the age, gender, income, and party affiliation variables. Except for the youngest age group (18-24 years), younger respondents were less likely to feel “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Kansas Democratic Party leaders’ efforts. About one third (33.9%) of respondents who were 65 years old or older felt “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Kansas Democratic Party leaders’ efforts, while 13.9% of respondents who were 25-34 years old felt so (Figure 14). Compared with male respondents, female respondents were more likely to feel “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Democratic Party leaders’ efforts (Figure 15). Respondents with lower family income were more likely to feel “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Democratic Party leaders’ efforts than those with higher family income (Figure 16), and respondents who were Democrats or leaning Democratic were more likely to be “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Democratic Party leaders’ efforts than respondents who were Republican or leaning Republican (Figure 17).

Figure 14: Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Age

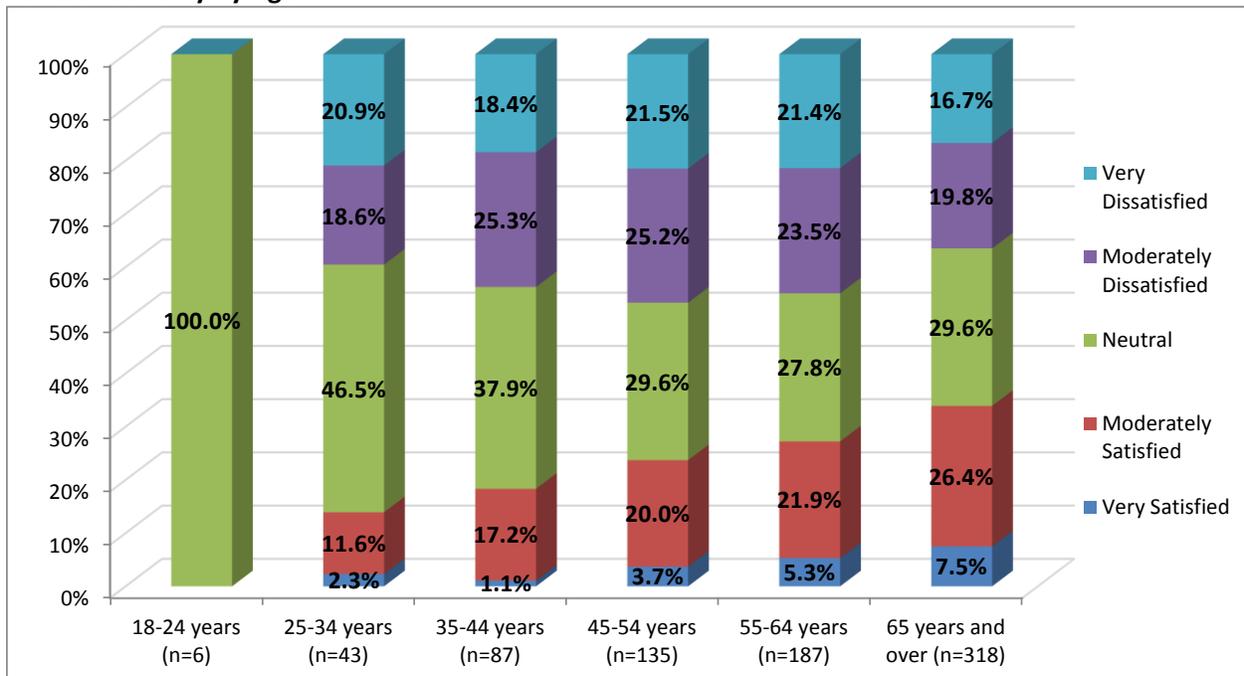


Figure 15: Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Gender

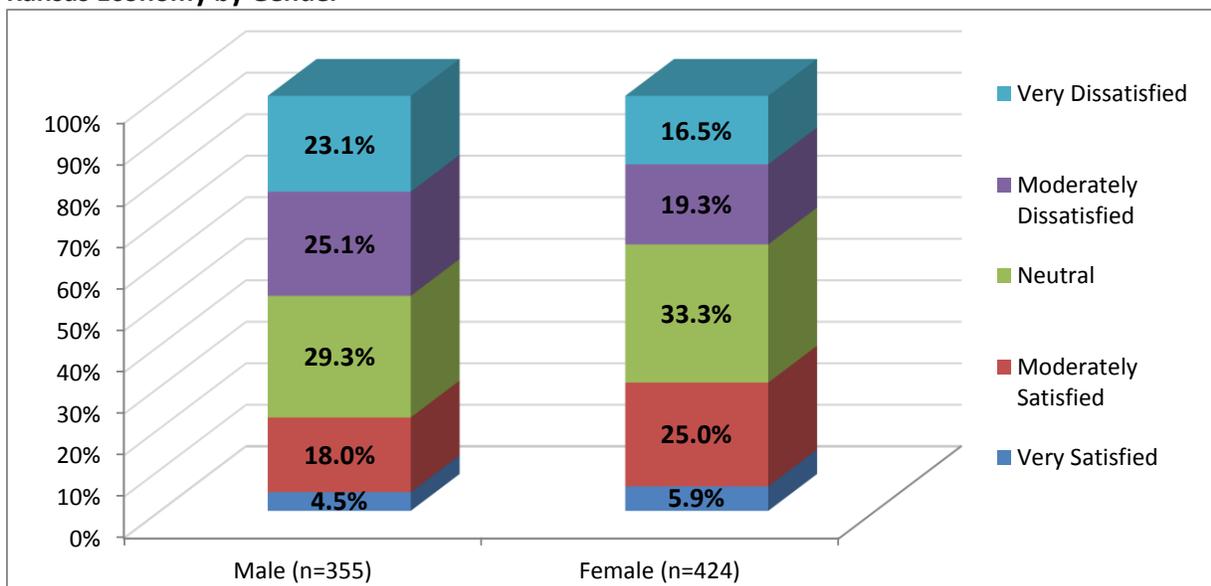


Figure 16: Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Income

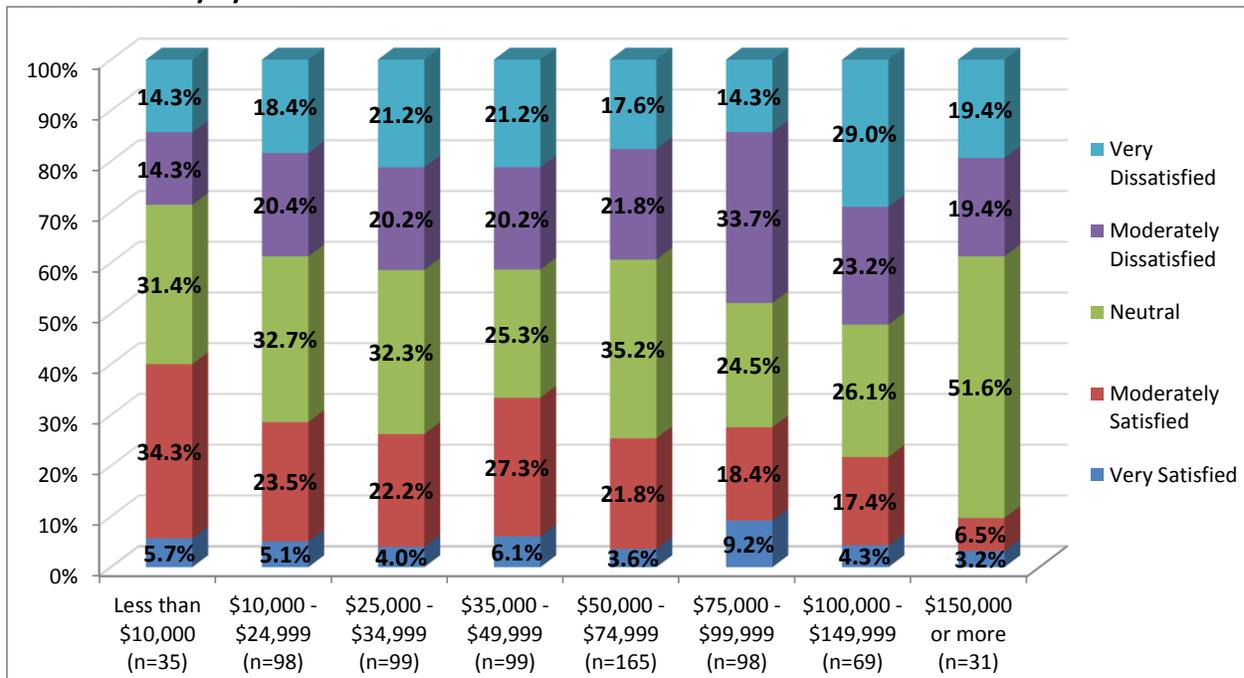
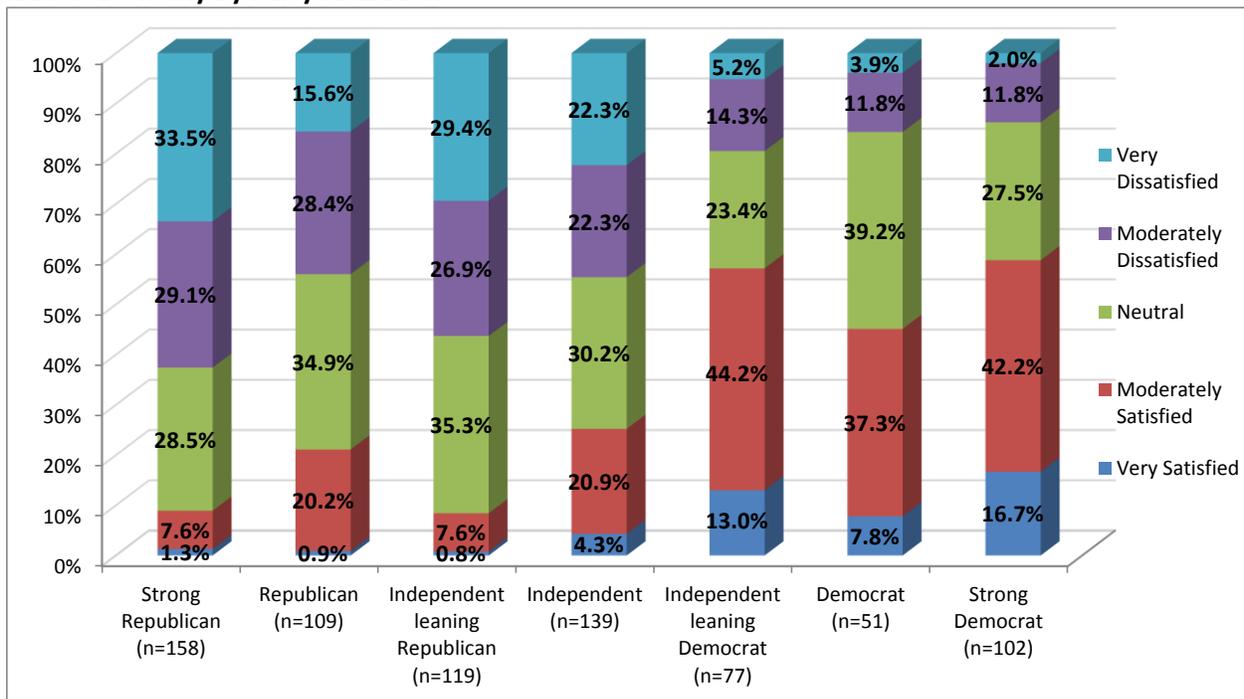


Figure 17: Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation



Respondents with different education, party affiliations, and races varied in their satisfaction with Republican Party leaders' efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy. Respondents were more likely to feel "very" or "moderately satisfied" with Republican Party leaders' efforts when they had lower levels of education (Figure 18), were Republicans or leaning Republican (Figure 19), or were white (Figure 20).

Figure 18: Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Education

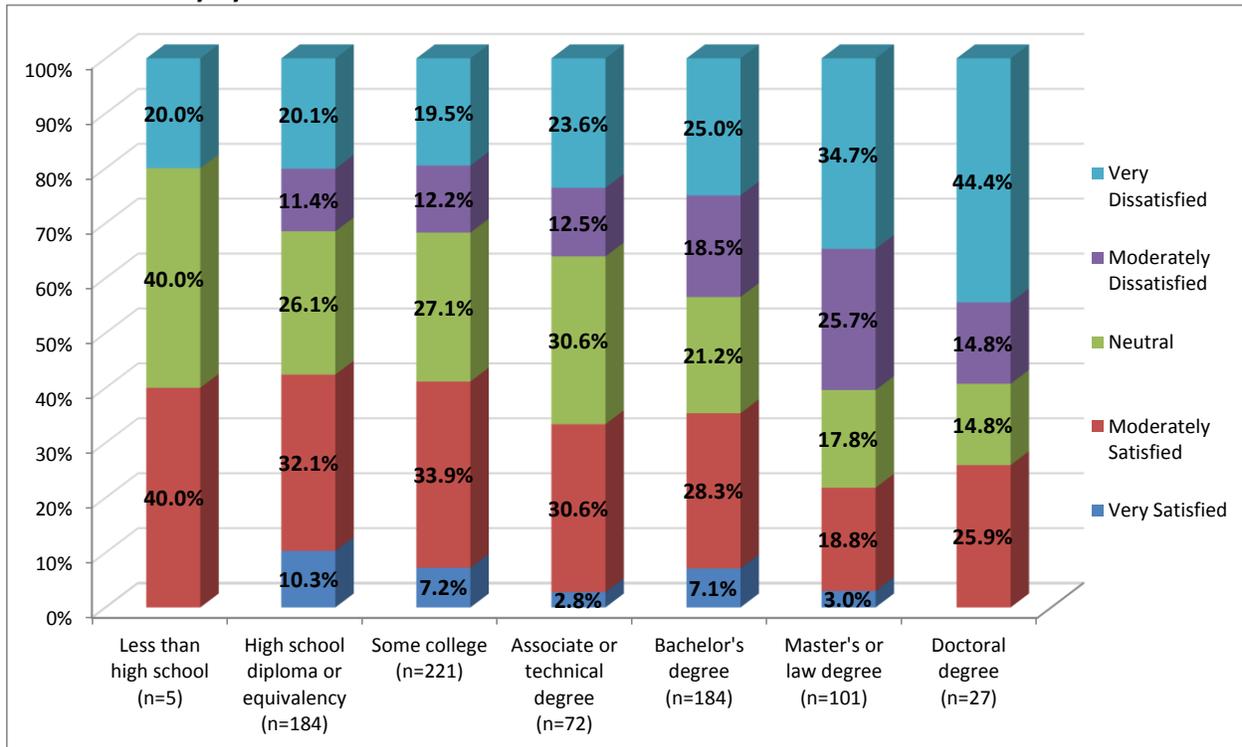


Figure 19: Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation

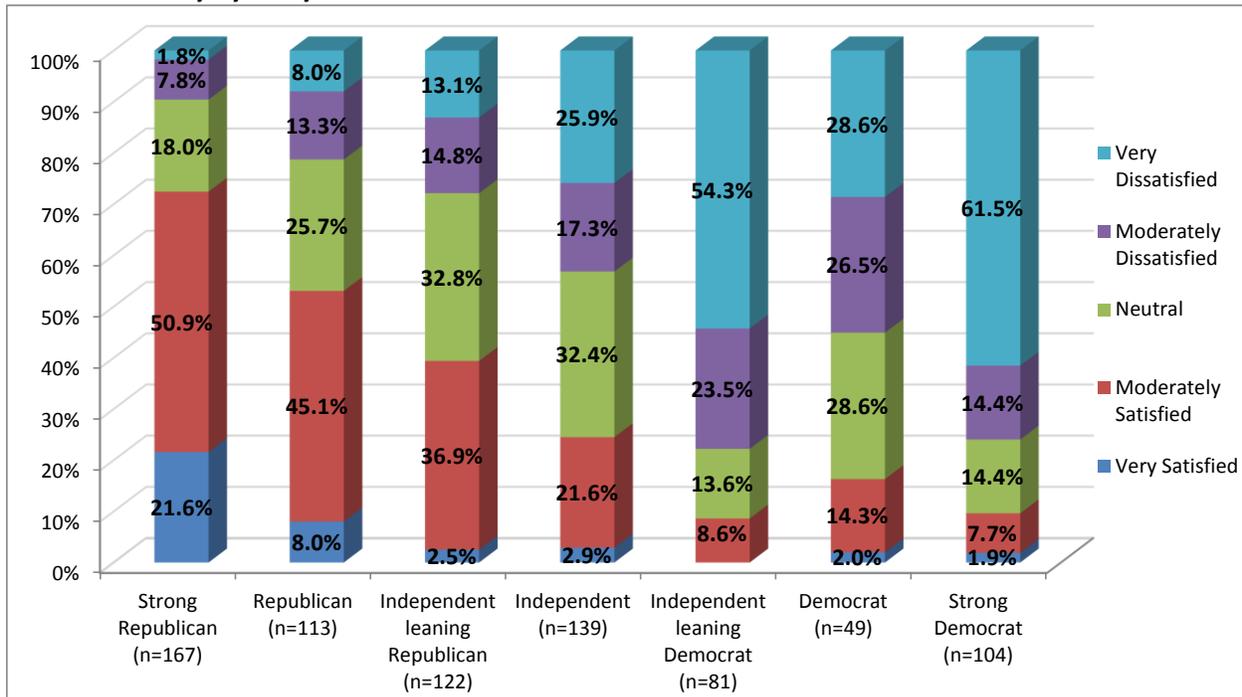
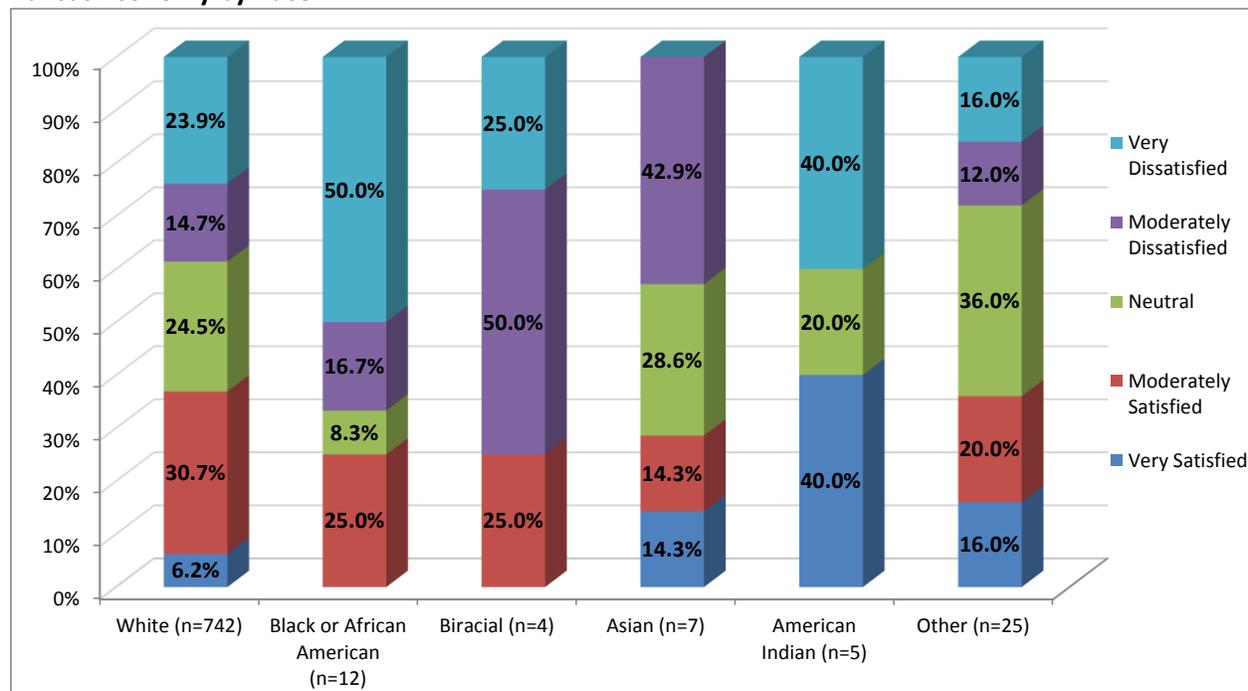
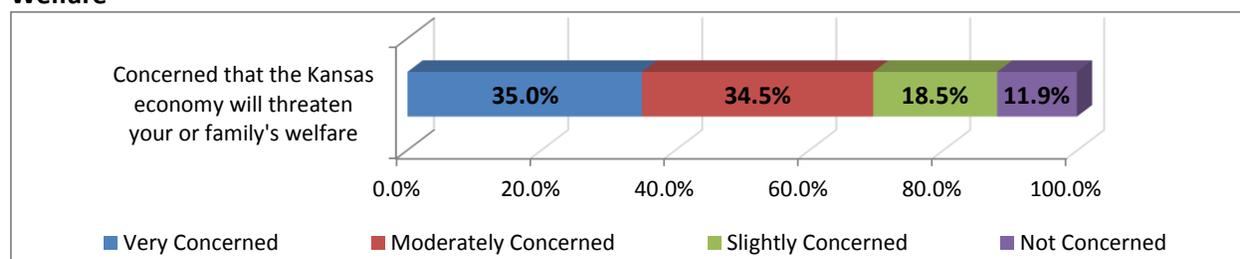


Figure 20: Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders' Efforts to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Race



Respondents were also asked how concerned they were that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten them or their families' welfare. About seventy percent (69.5%) of respondents were either "very concerned" or "moderately concerned" (Figure 21). Respondent's concern was significantly associated with the age, education, gender, family income, and party affiliation variables. As shown by Figures 22, 23, and 24, respondents were more likely to feel "very concerned" or "moderately concerned" when they were older, less educated, or female. Respondents who had lower family income, or identified themselves as Democrats or leaning Democratic were also more likely to be "very concerned" or "moderately concerned" (Figures 25 and 26).

Figure 21: Concern with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare



Question: *How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's welfare in the coming year?*

Figure 22: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare by Age

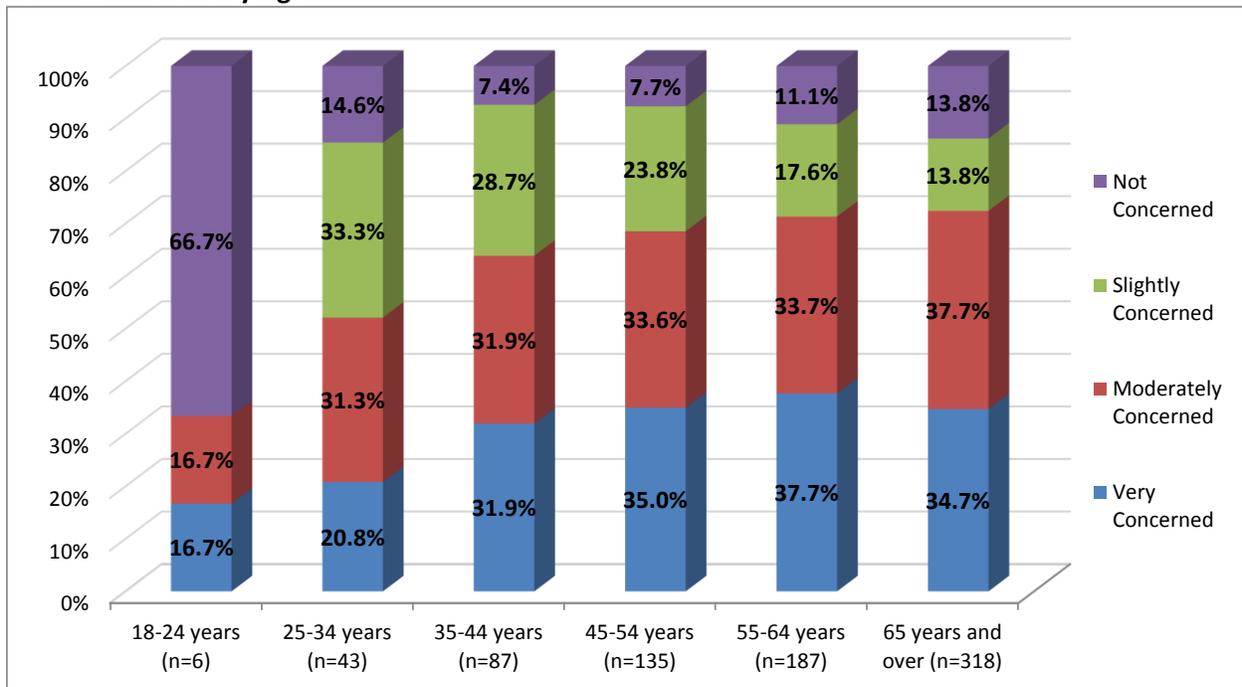


Figure 23: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare by Education

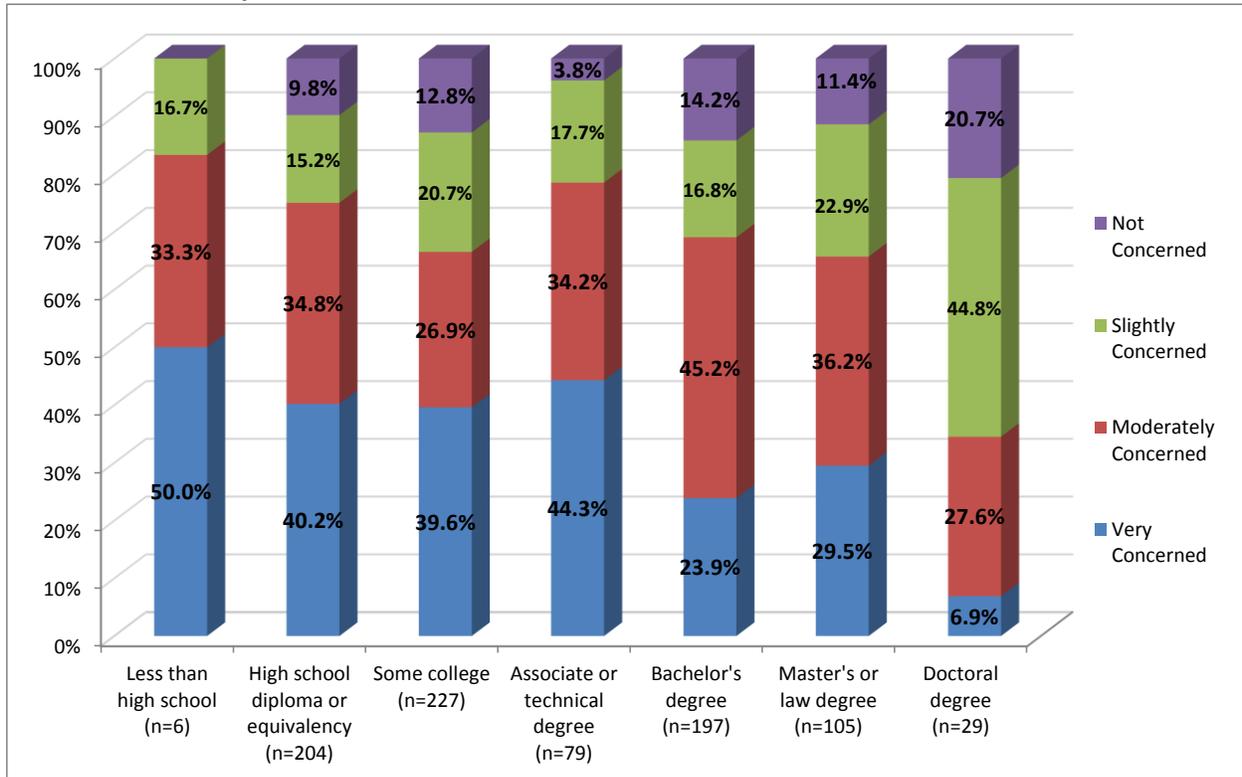


Figure 24: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare by Gender

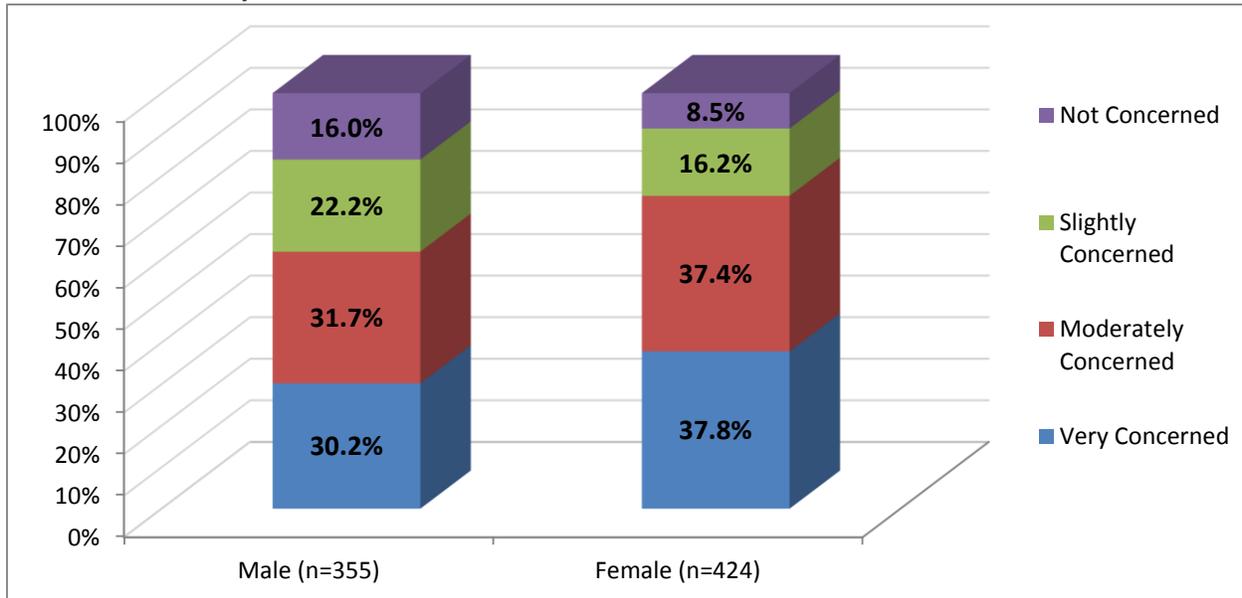


Figure 25: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare by Income

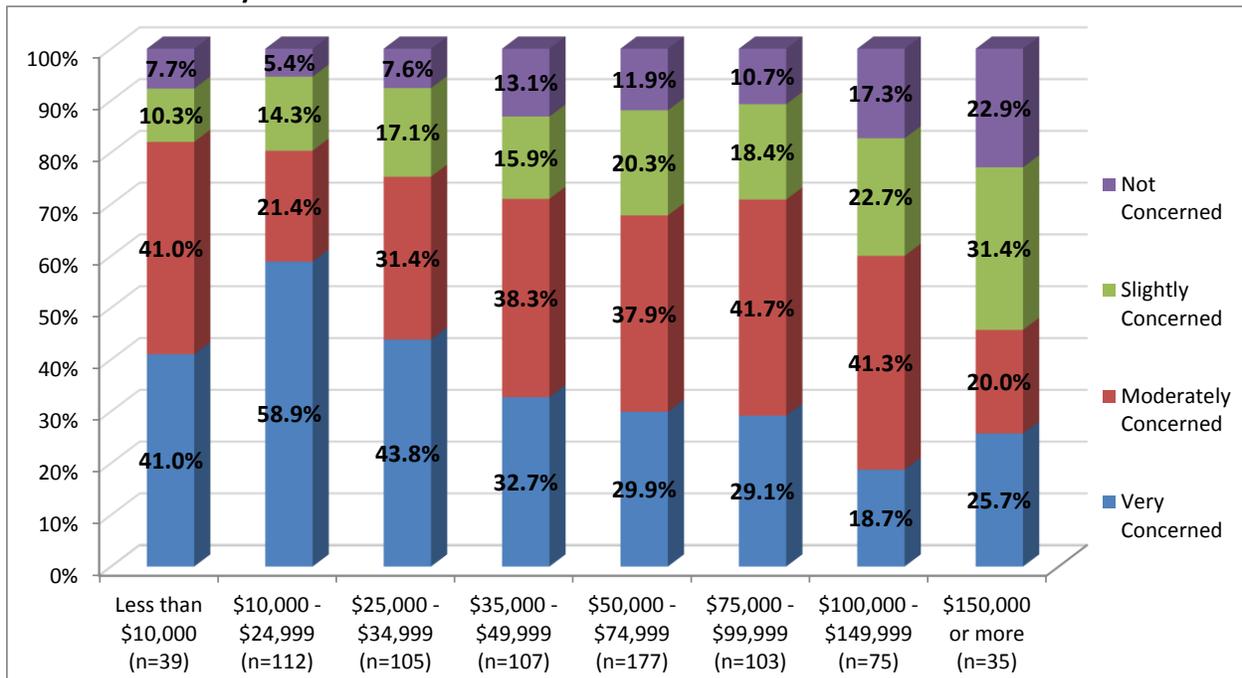
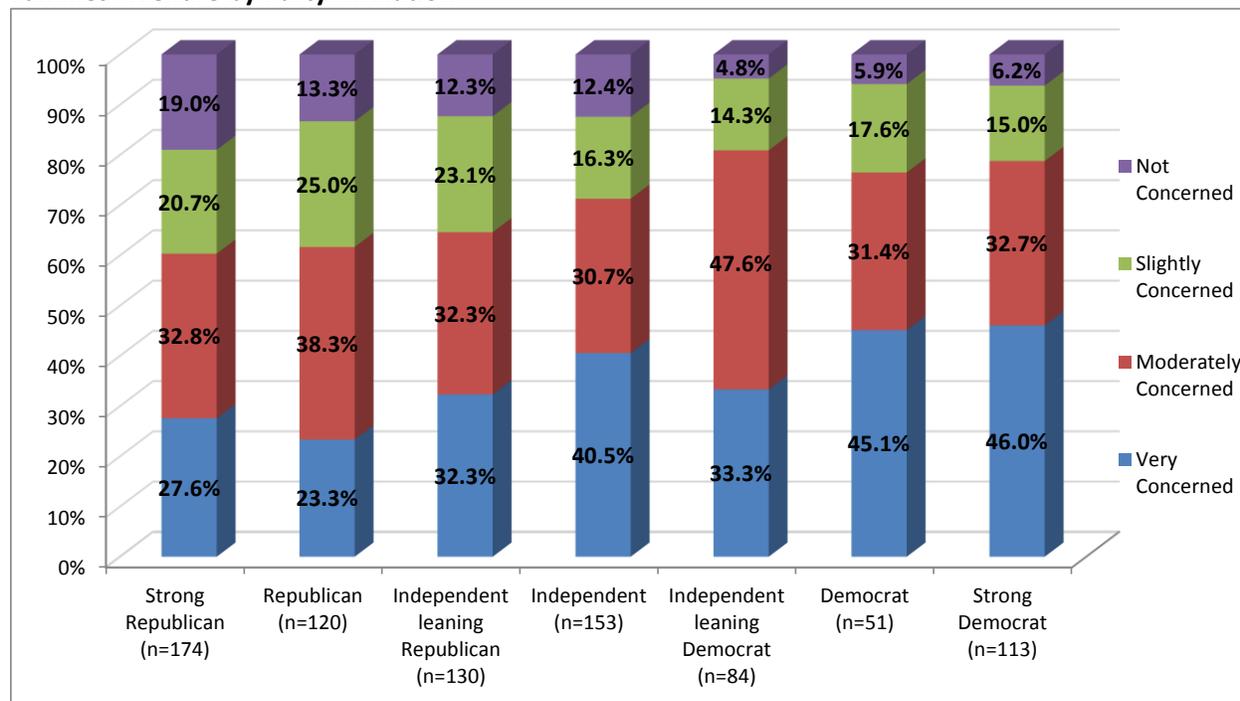


Figure 26: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare by Party Affiliation

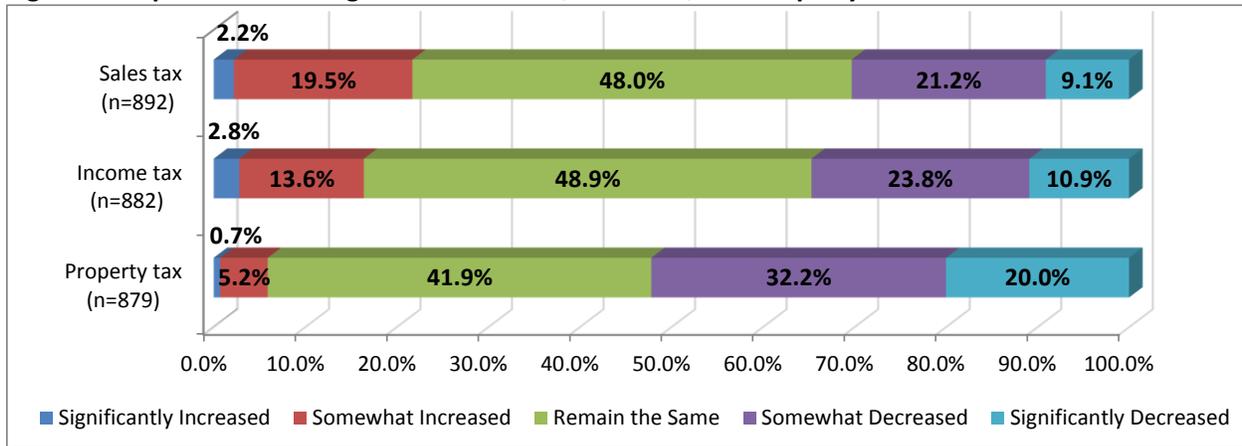


Section 3: Taxes

Kansas has three primary revenue sources: income tax, sales tax, and property tax. Although the most commonly expressed preference was to leave all tax rates at their current levels, 16.4% of respondents thought that income tax should be “significantly” or “somewhat increased.” More than twenty percent (21.7%) of respondents thought that sales tax should be “significantly” or “somewhat increased.” More than half (52.2%) of respondents thought that property tax should be “somewhat” or “significantly decreased” (Figure 27).

Respondents with different education and party affiliations varied in their opinions on income tax increase. The higher the respondent’s education level, the more likely he or she was to support income tax increase (Figure 28). Respondents who were strong Democrats, Democrats or leaning Democratic were more likely to say the income tax should be “somewhat” or “significantly increased” than Republican respondents, those leaning Republican, and independent voters (Figure 29).

Figure 27: Opinions on Changes of Income Tax, Sales Tax, and Property Tax



Question: *Kansas has three primary revenue sources: income tax, sales tax, and property tax. Thinking of the current Kansas economy, do you believe that each of the following taxes should be significantly increased, somewhat increased, remain the same, somewhat decreased, or significantly decreased?*

Figure 28: Opinions on Income Tax Change by Education

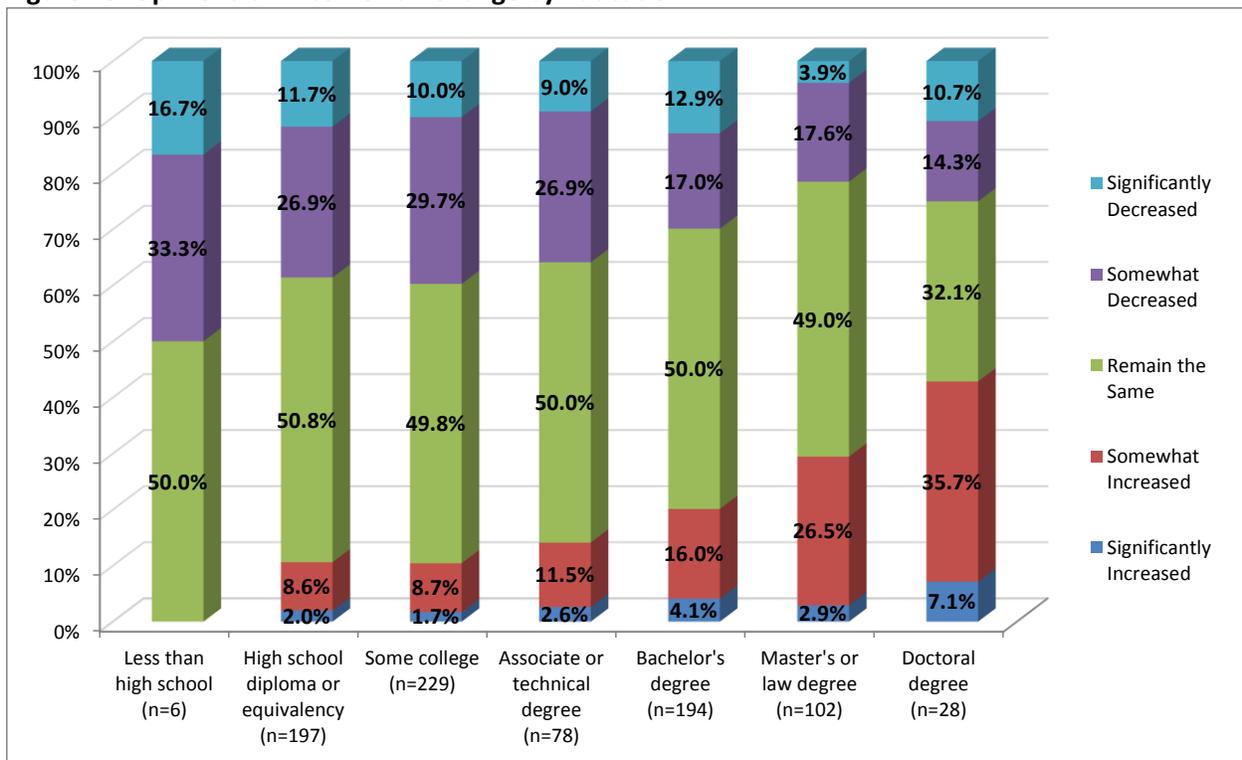
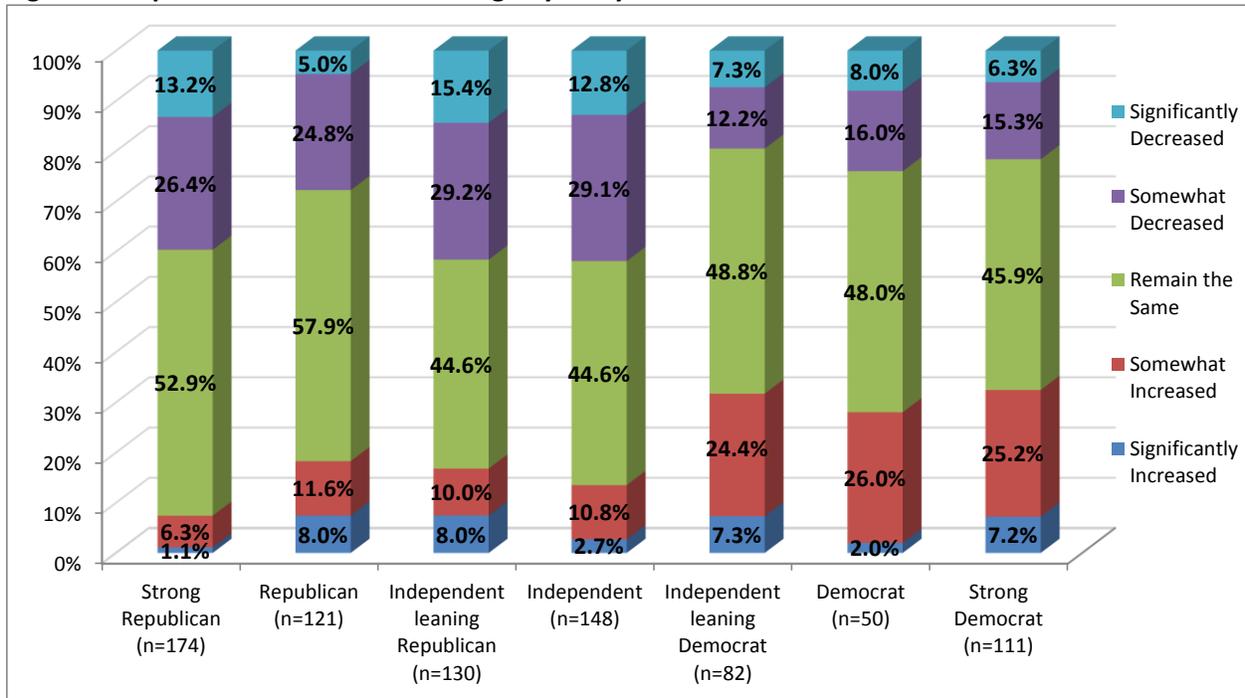


Figure 29: Opinions on Income Tax Change by Party Affiliation



Respondents' opinions on sales tax increase were significantly related to education, gender, family income, race, and voting behavior in 2010. As the education level increased, the percentage of respondents who supported significant increase of sales tax also increased. The percentage of respondents who supported sales tax to be "somewhat increased" also followed the same pattern among respondents who did not have doctoral degrees (Figure 30). Male respondents and those who voted in 2010 were more likely to support sales tax to be "somewhat increased" or "significantly increased" (Figures 31 and 34).

Among respondents whose family income was less than \$100,000 in 2011, those with higher family income were more likely to support sales tax to be "somewhat increased" or "significantly increased." Those respondents whose families earned \$100,000 or more in 2011 were less likely to support a sales tax increase than those whose family income was between \$75,000 and \$99,999, but more likely to support a sales tax increase than those whose family income was less than \$75,000 (Figure 32). Except for respondents who indicated they were of other races, white respondents were the most likely to support a sales tax increase (Figure 33). Respondents who voted in 2010 were also more likely to support a sales tax increase (Figure 34).

Figure 30: Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Education

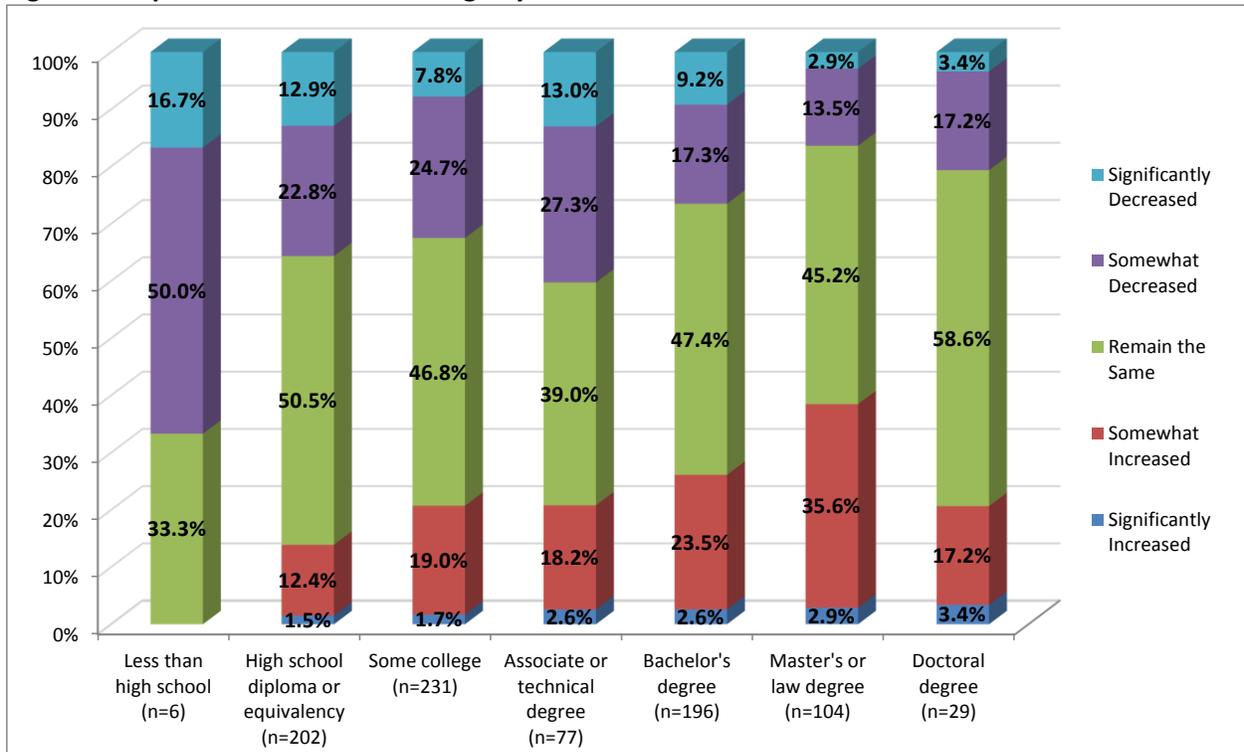


Figure 31: Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Gender

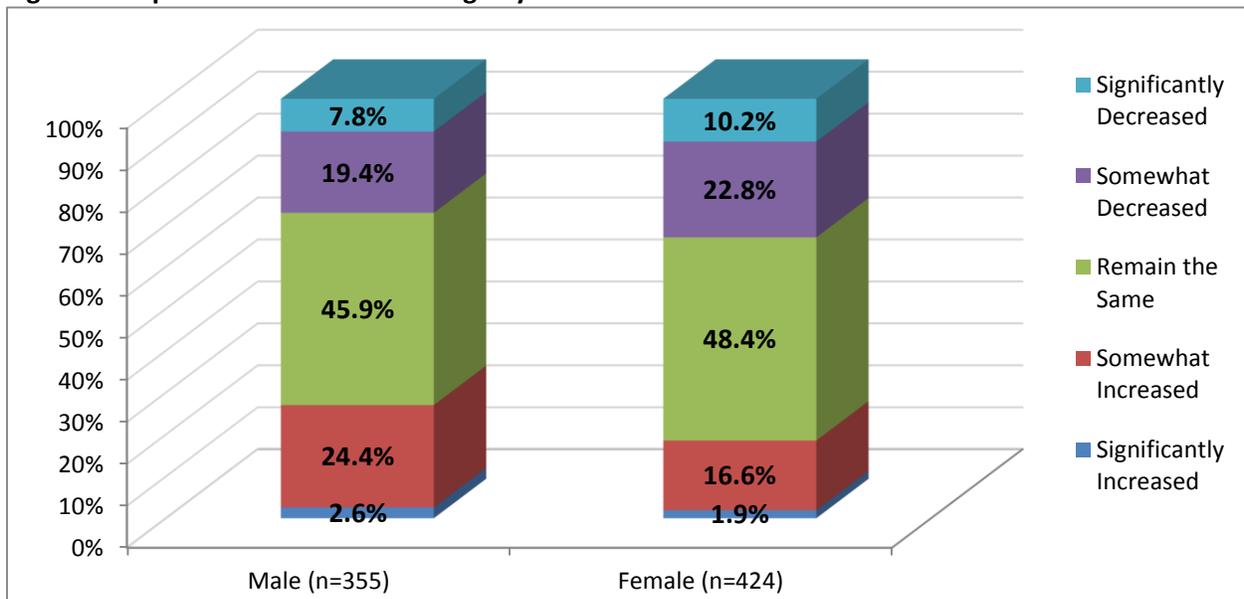


Figure 32: Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Income



Figure 33: Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Race

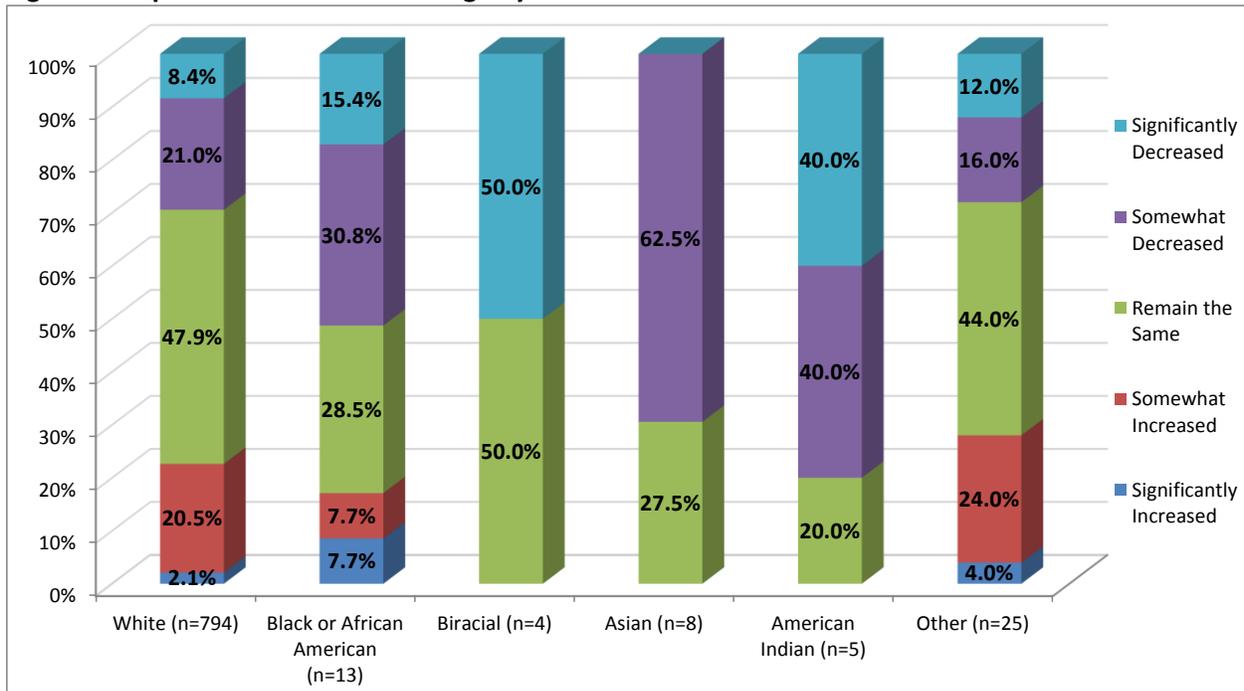
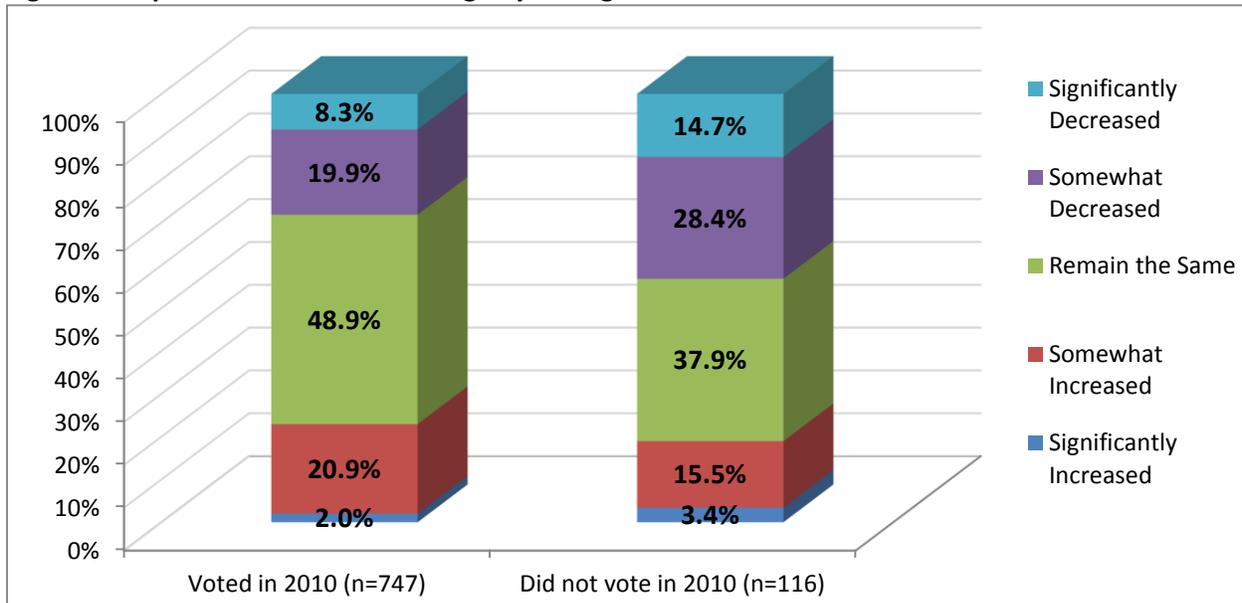


Figure 34: Opinions on Sales Tax Change by Voting Behavior



Respondents with different family incomes and party affiliations had different opinions on property tax change. In general, respondents who had higher family income were more likely to support a property tax decrease (Figure 35). Respondents who were strong Democrats, Democrats, or leaning Democratic were more likely to support a property tax increase (Figure 36).

Figure 35: Opinions on Property Tax Change by Income

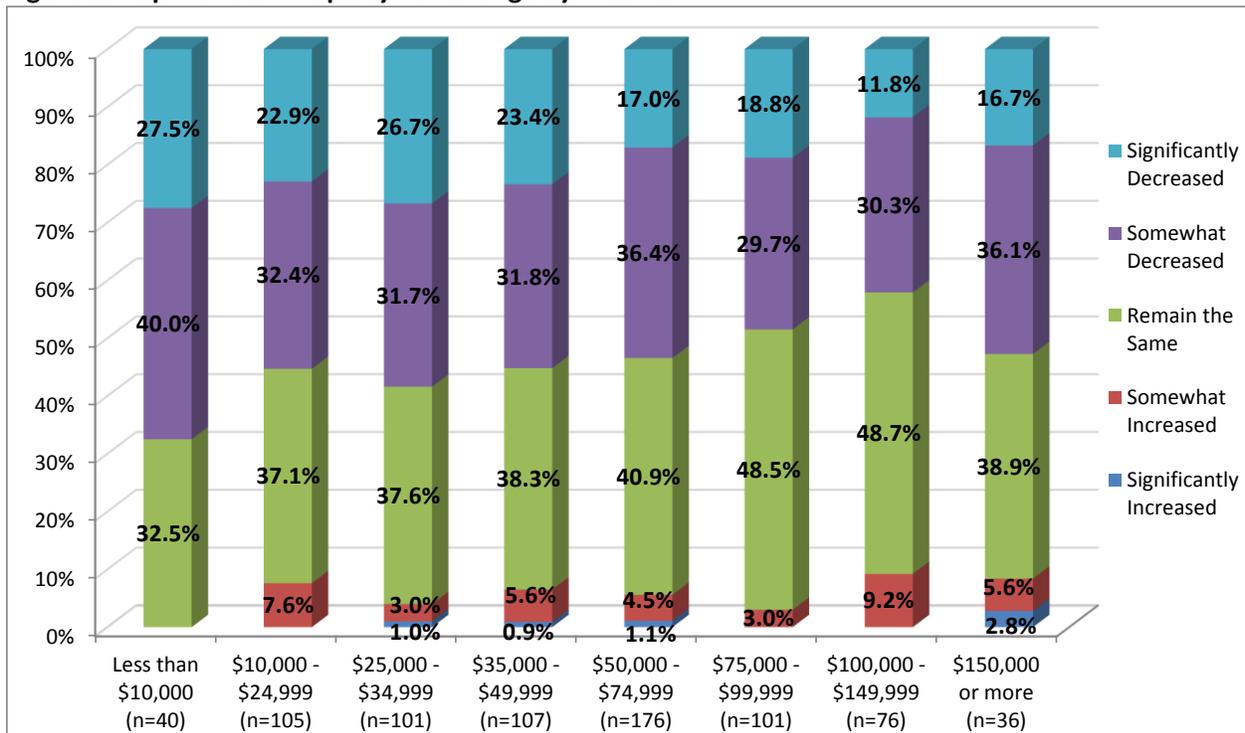
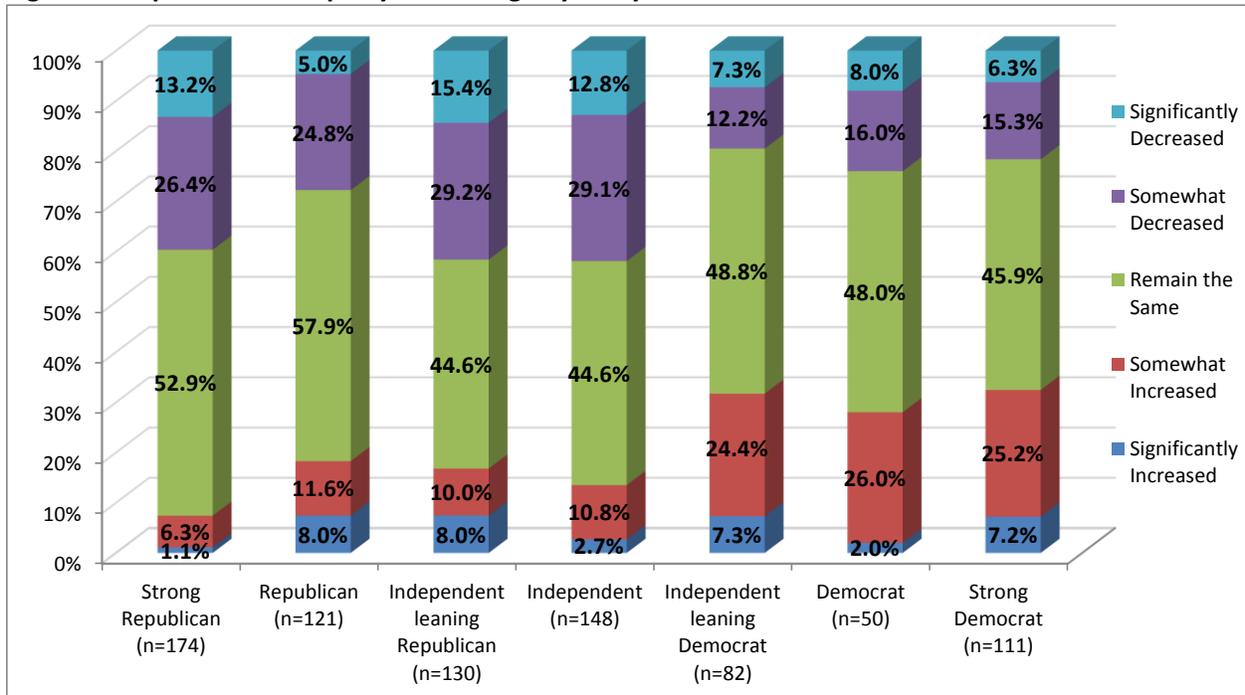


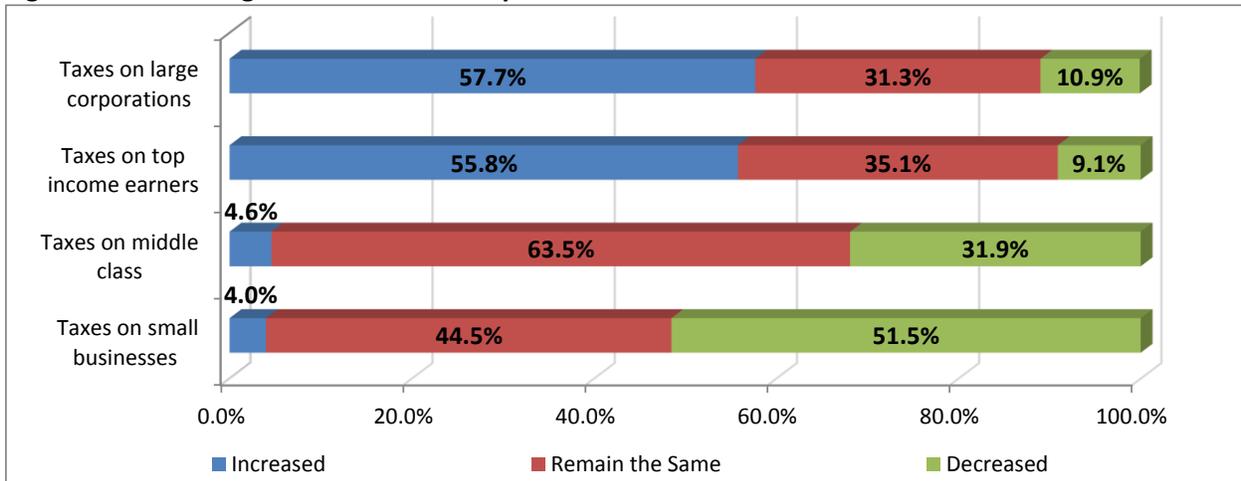
Figure 36: Opinions on Property Tax Change by Party Affiliation



Tax increases and reductions can be targeted at different types of people or businesses. More than half (51.5%) of respondents thought taxes on small businesses should be decreased. In contrast, 57.7% of respondents believed that taxes on large corporations should be increased. Almost one-third (31.9%) of respondents thought that taxes on the middle class should be decreased, while only 9.1% said taxes on the top income earners should be decreased (Figure 37).

Respondents with different education and family income levels differed in their opinions of tax changes on middle class. Respondents with higher education were more likely to support a tax increase on the middle class (Figure 38). In general, respondents who had higher family income were less likely to support decreasing taxes on the middle class (Figure 39).

Figure 37: Tax Changes on Different Groups



Question: Tax increases and reductions can be targeted at different people or businesses. Please tell us whether you think taxes on the following groups should increase, remained the same, or decrease.

Figure 38: Tax Change on Middle Class by Education

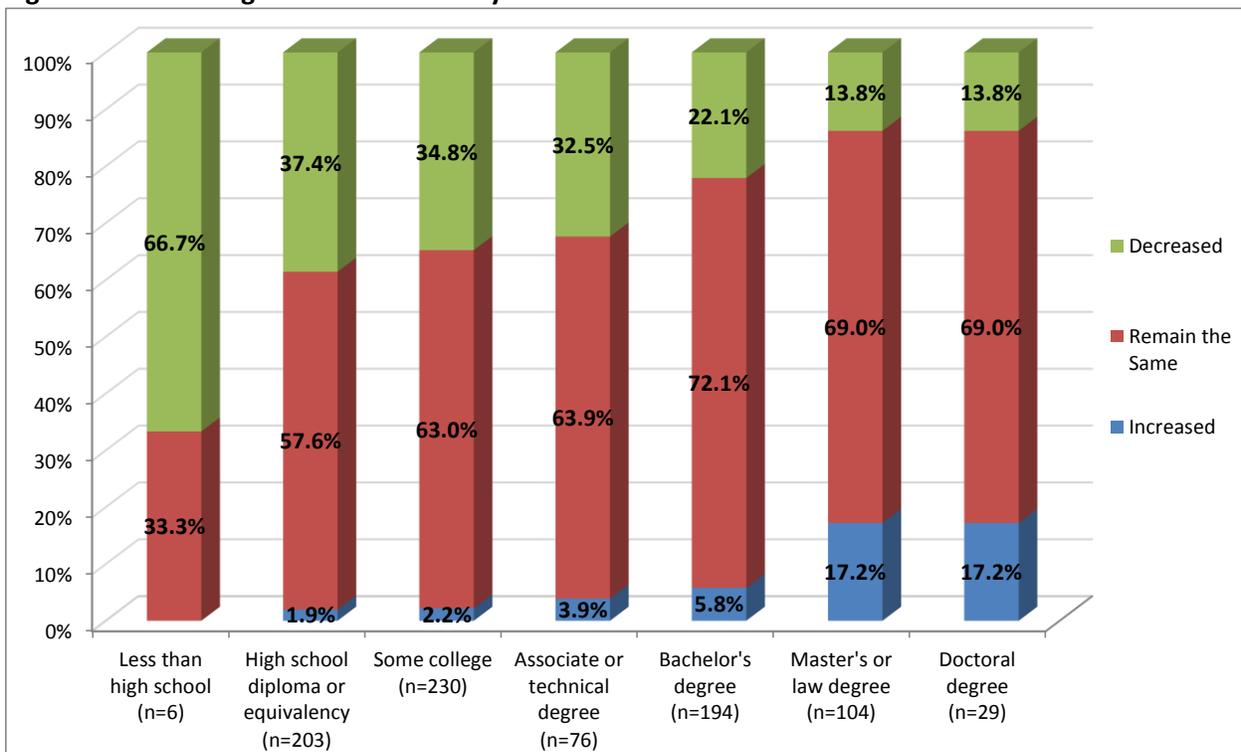


Figure 39: Tax Change on Middle Class by Income



Respondent's opinion of tax change on large corporations was significantly related with the gender and family income variables. Female respondents were more likely to support a tax increase on large corporations. Almost two-third (66.2%) of female respondents felt that taxes on large corporations should be increased, whereas 48.1% of male respondents felt so (Figure 40). In general, respondents who had higher family income were less likely to support a tax increase on large corporations (Figure 41).

Figure 40: Tax Change on Large Corporation by Gender

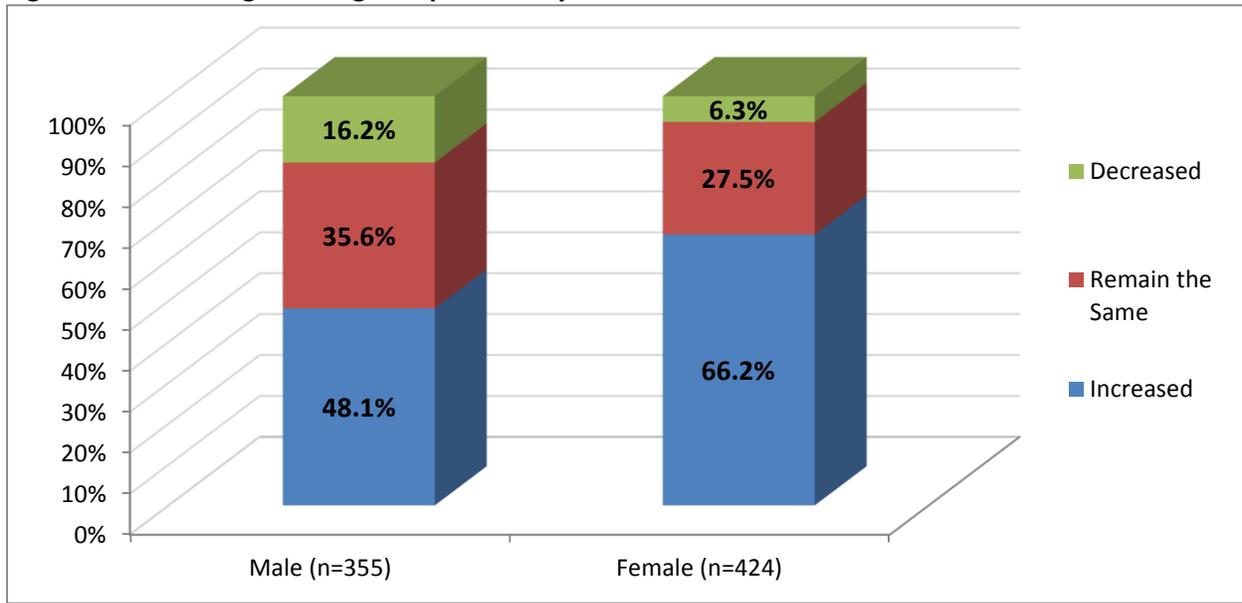


Figure 41: Tax Change on Large Corporation by Income



Respondents with different party affiliations varied in their opinions of tax changes on top income earners, large corporations, and small businesses. Respondents who were strong Democrats, Democrats, independent leaning Democratic and independent were more likely to support tax increases on top income earners (Figure 42), large corporations (Figure 43), and, to a lesser degree, small businesses than Republicans and respondents leaning Republican (Figure 44).

Figure 42: Tax Change on Top Income Earners by Party Affiliation

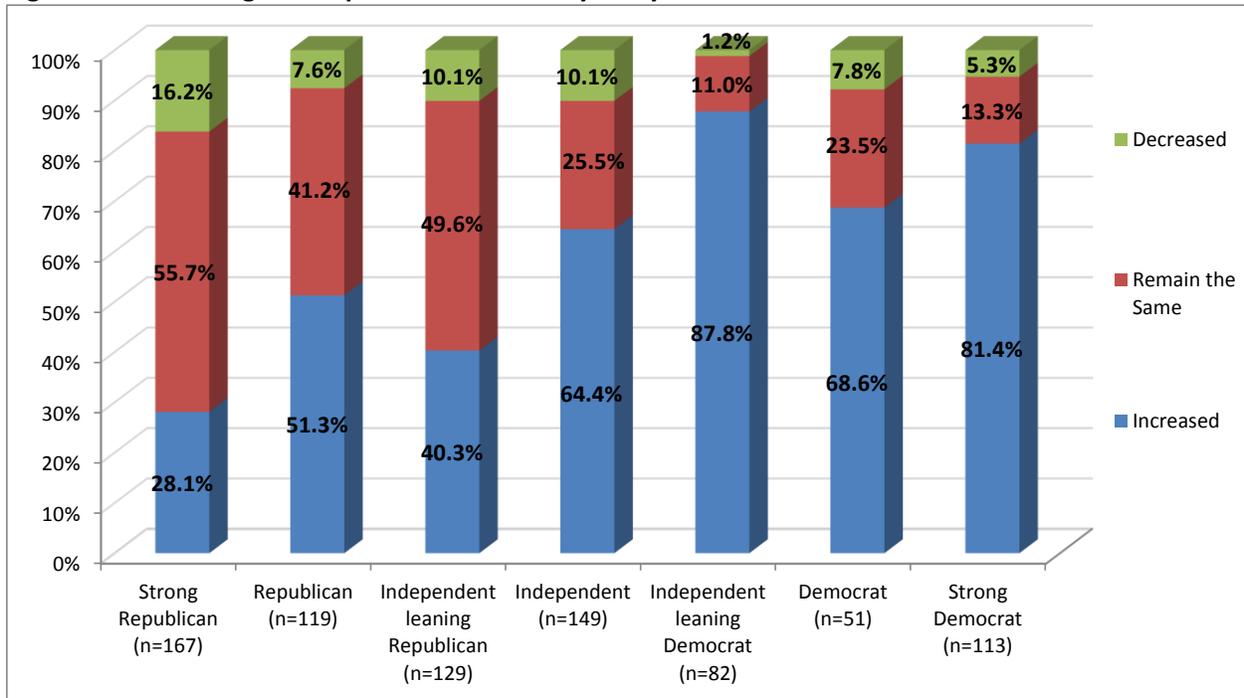


Figure 43: Tax Change on Large Corporation by Party Affiliation

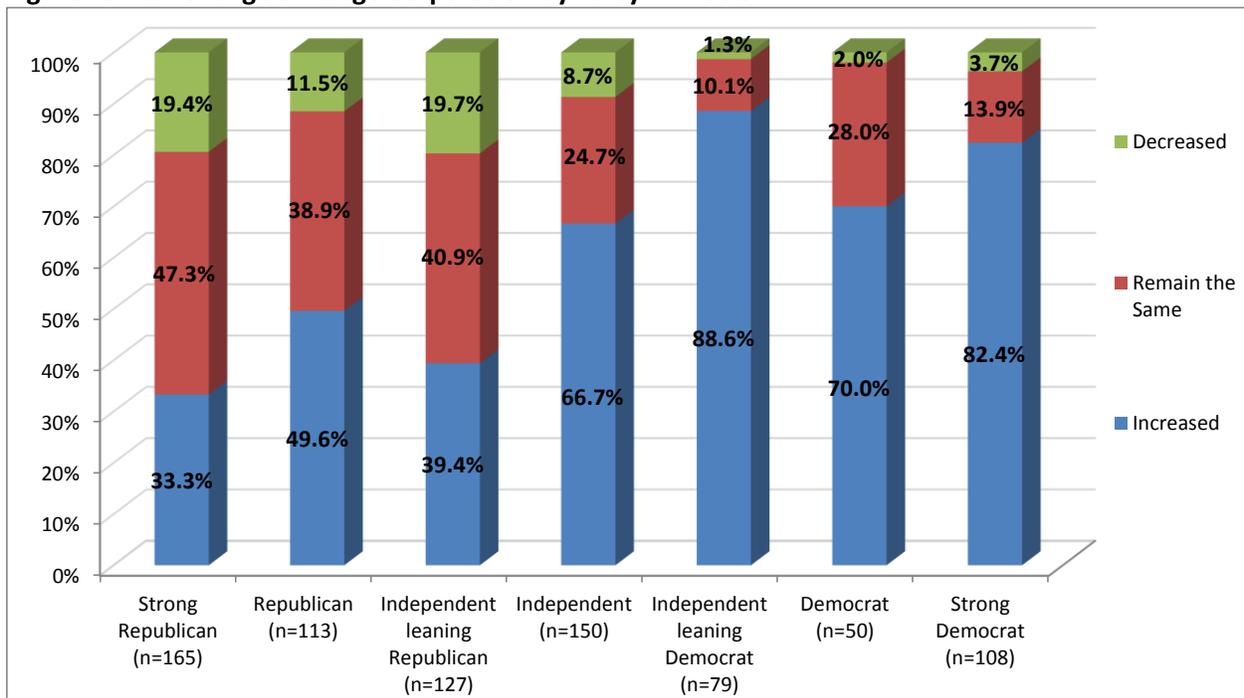
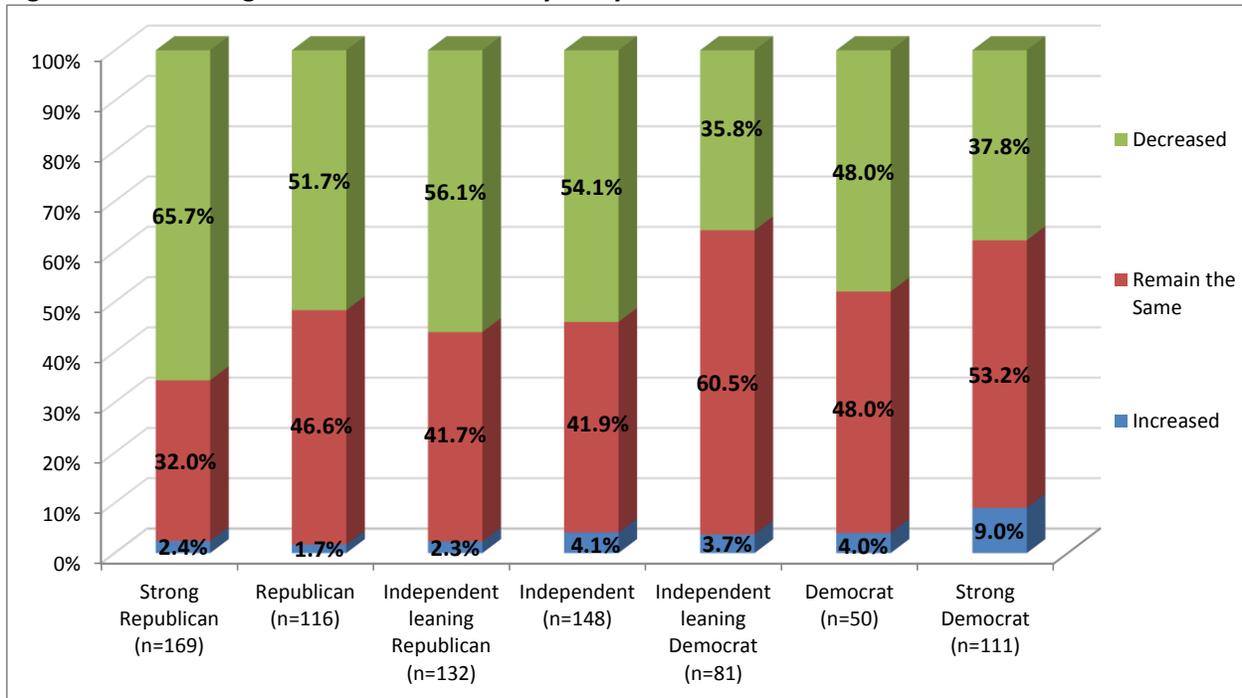


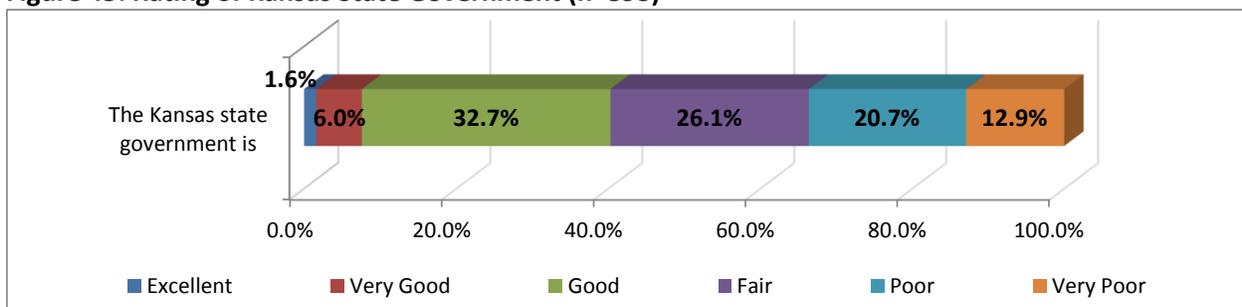
Figure 44: Tax Change on Small Businesses by Party Affiliation



Section 4: State Government

In 2012, 40.3% of respondents felt that the Kansas state government’s performance was at least “good” (Figure 45). Respondents with different education and party affiliations rated the Kansas state government differently. In general, respondents with higher education were less likely to feel the state government was “poor” or “very poor” (Figure 46). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were less likely to think the state government was “excellent” or “very good” than Republican respondents, those leaning Republican, and independent voters (Figure 47).

Figure 45: Rating of Kansas State Government (n=893)



Question: *In general, how would you rate the Kansas State Government?*

Figure 46: Rating of Kansas State Government by Education

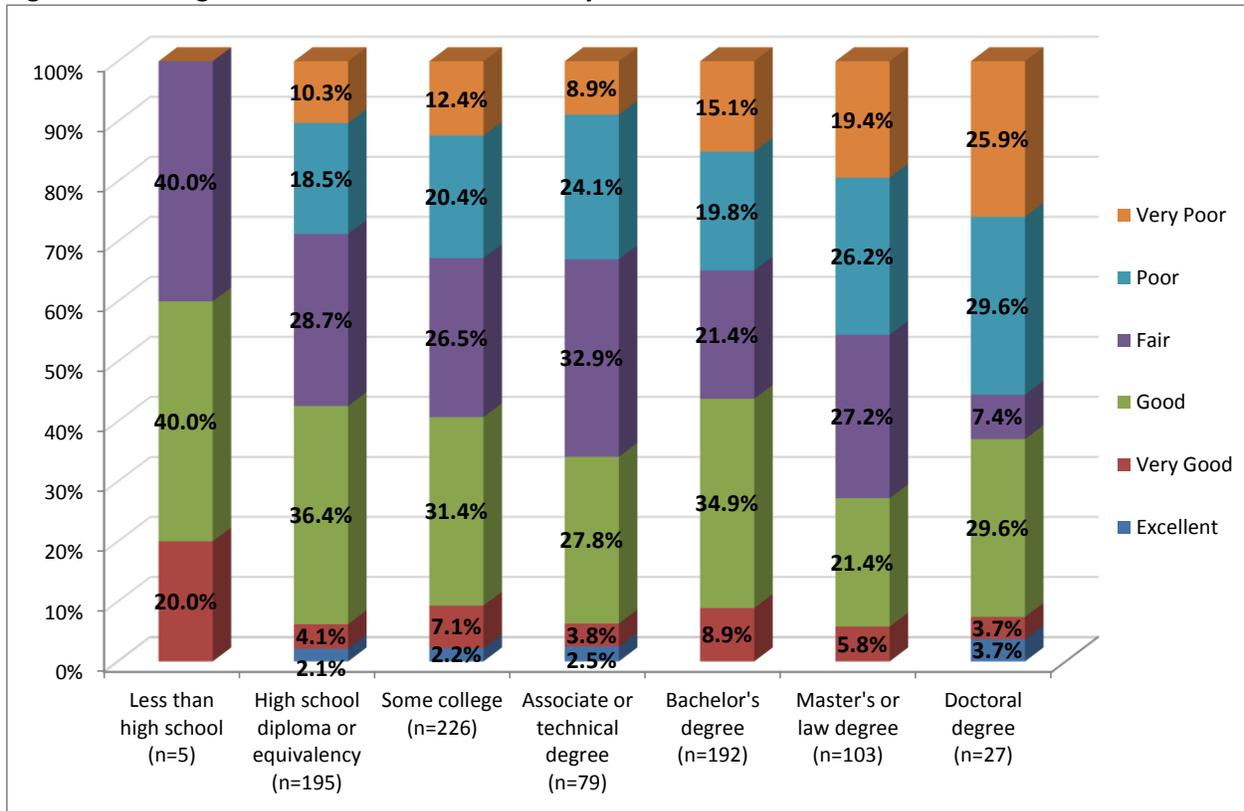
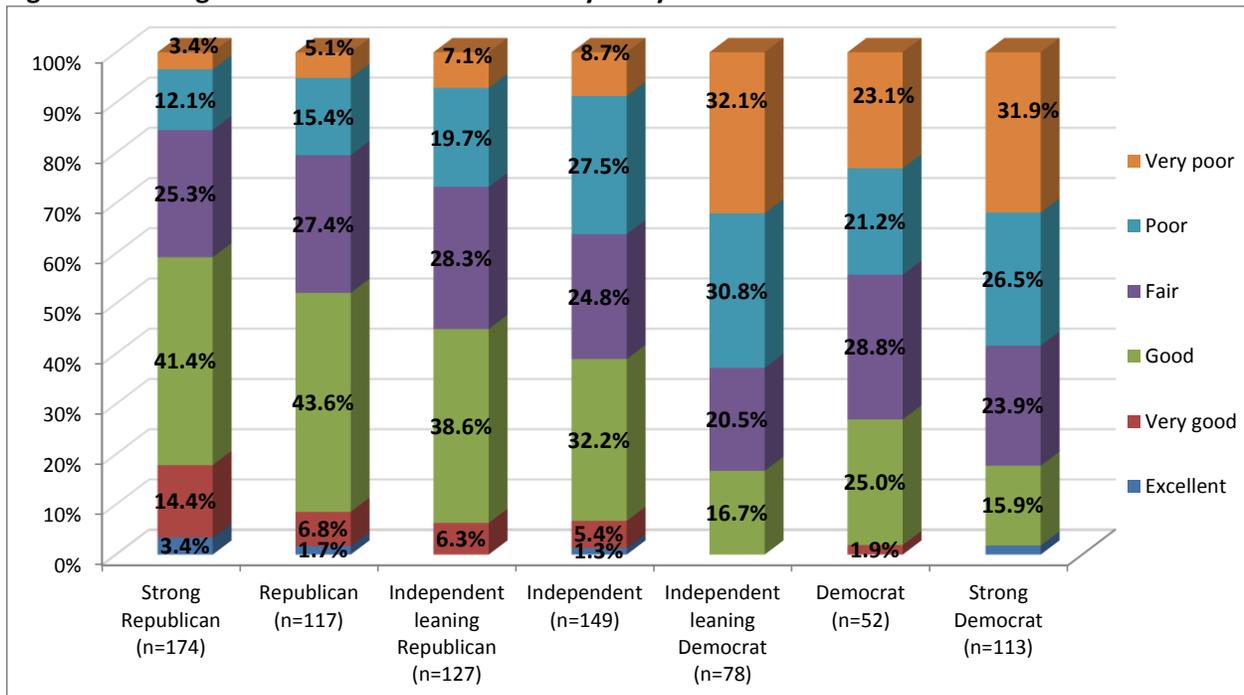
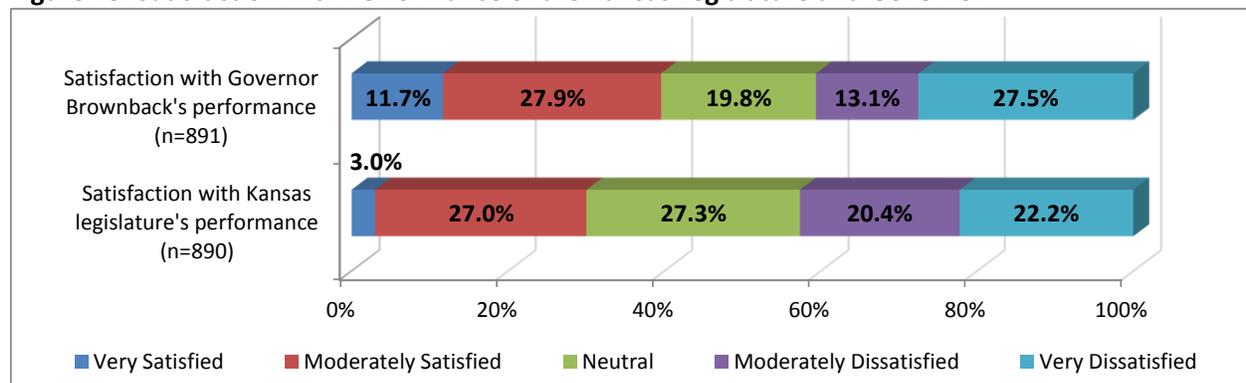


Figure 47: Rating of Kansas State Government by Party Affiliation



When asked to evaluate the performance of the Kansas legislature, 3% of respondents were “very satisfied” and 27% were “moderately satisfied.” Almost forty percent (39.6%) of respondents were “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with the performance of Governor Brownback (Figure 48).

Figure 48: Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature and Governor



Question: *How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the Kansas legislature and Governor Brownback?*

Respondents with different education and party affiliations differed in their satisfaction with the Kansas legislature. Respondents with higher education were more likely to be “very” or “moderately dissatisfied” with the Kansas legislature (Figure 49). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to feel “very dissatisfied” or “moderately dissatisfied” with the Kansas legislature than Republican respondents and those independent voters (Figure 50).

Respondent’s satisfaction with Governor Brownback was associated with the education, party affiliation, and voting behavior variables. Respondents with higher education were more likely to be “very” or “moderately dissatisfied” with Governor Brownback (Figure 51). Republican respondents and independent voters were more likely to be “very” or “moderately satisfied” with Governor Brownback than Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic (Figure 52). About forty percent (40.3%) of respondents who voted in 2010 felt “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with Governor Brownback, 6% higher than those who did not vote (Figure 53).

Figure 49: Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature by Education

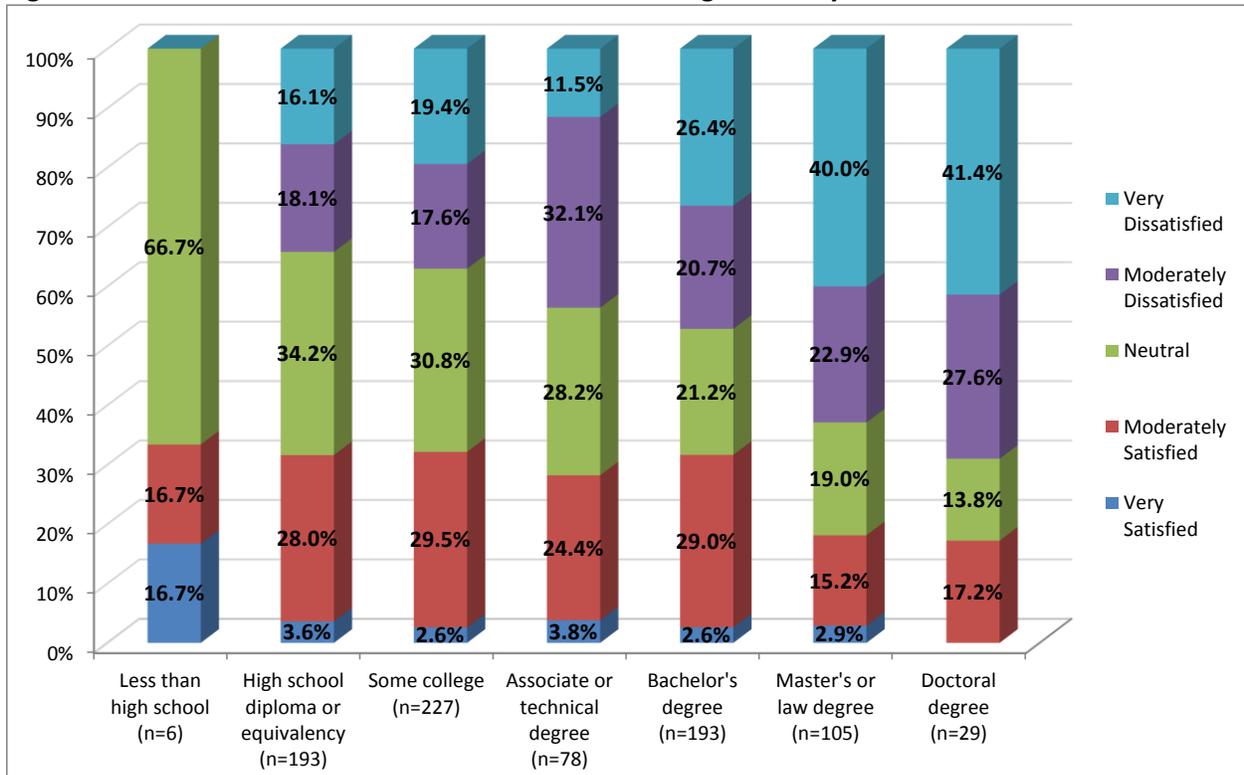


Figure 50: Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature by Party Affiliation

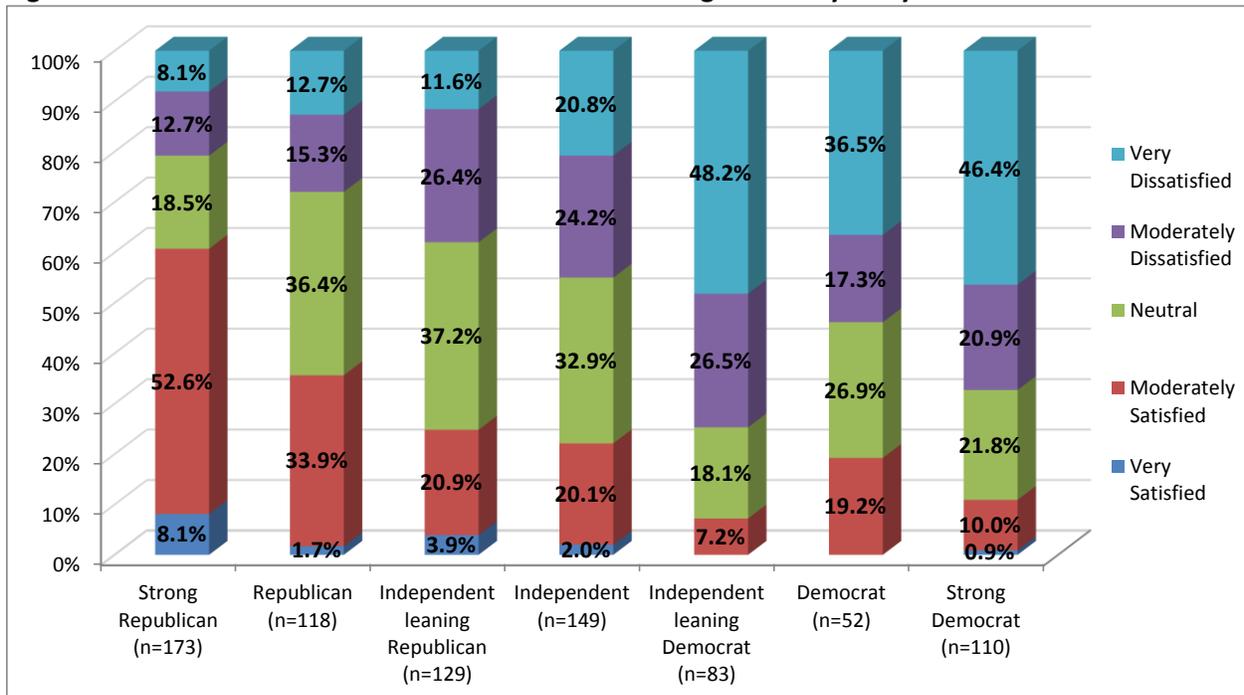


Figure 51: Satisfaction with Performance of Governor Brownback by Education

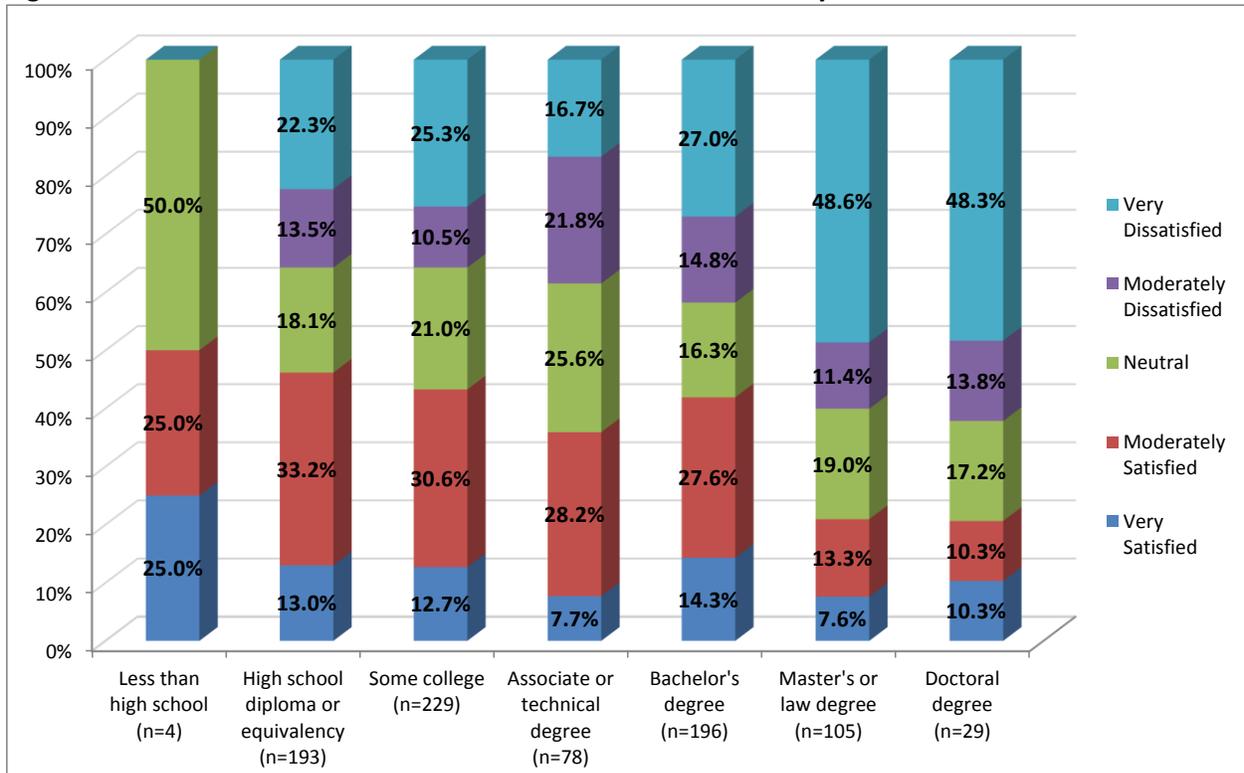


Figure 52: Satisfaction with Performance of Governor Brownback by Party Affiliation

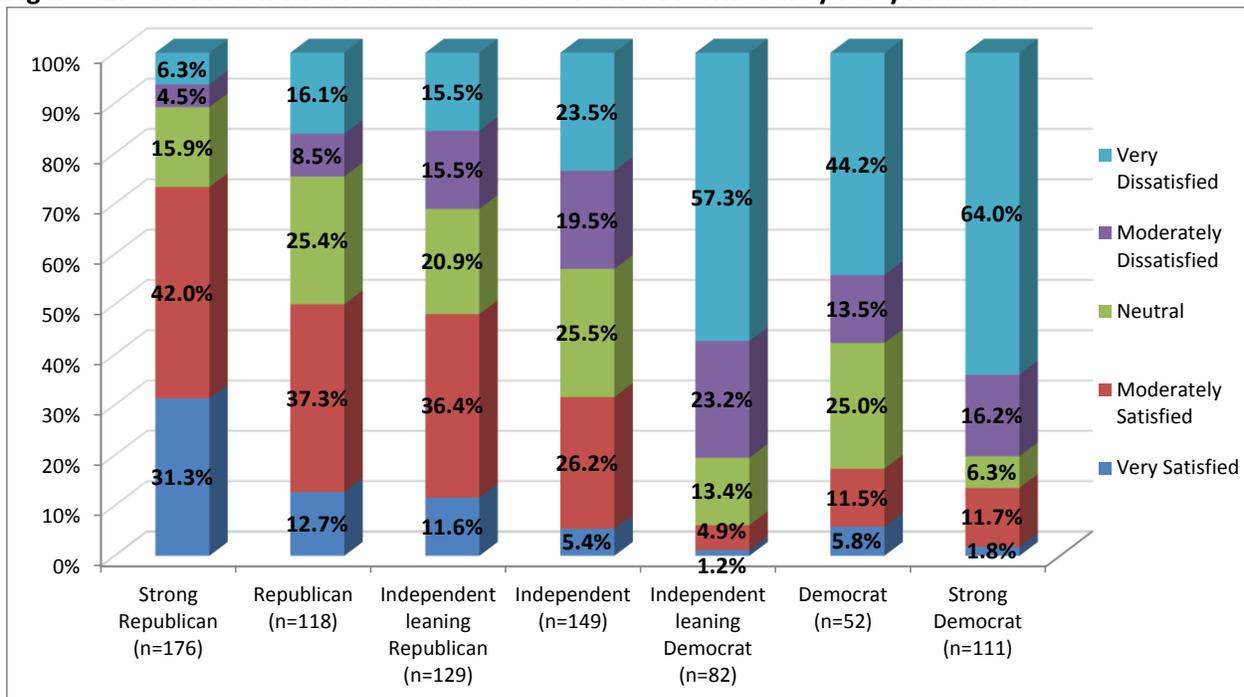
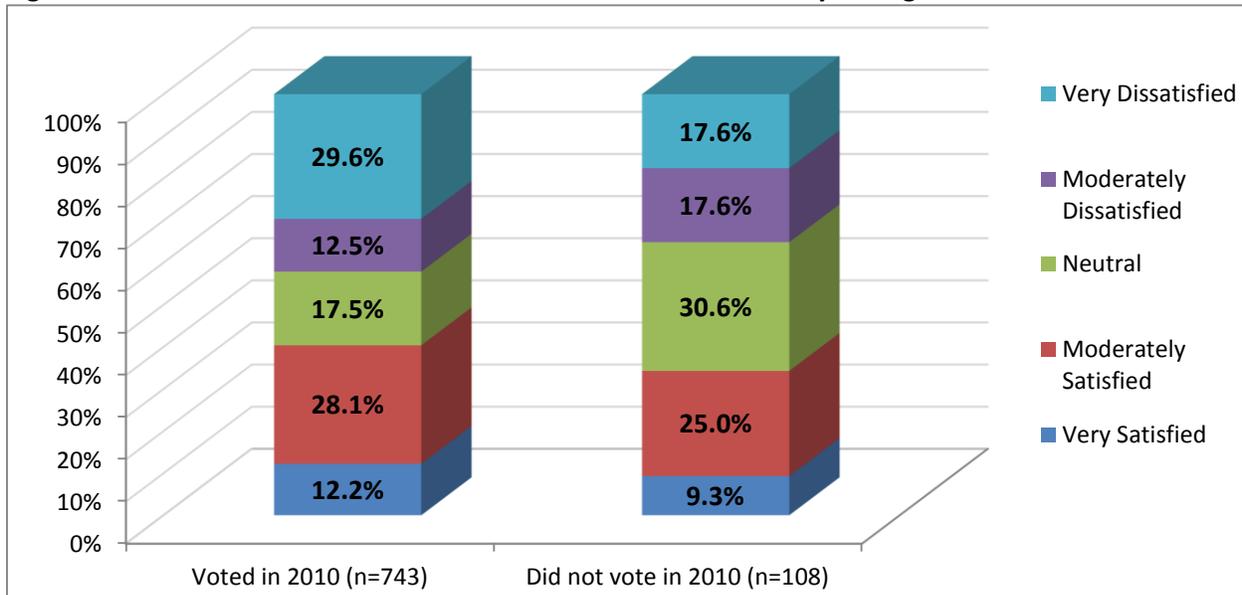
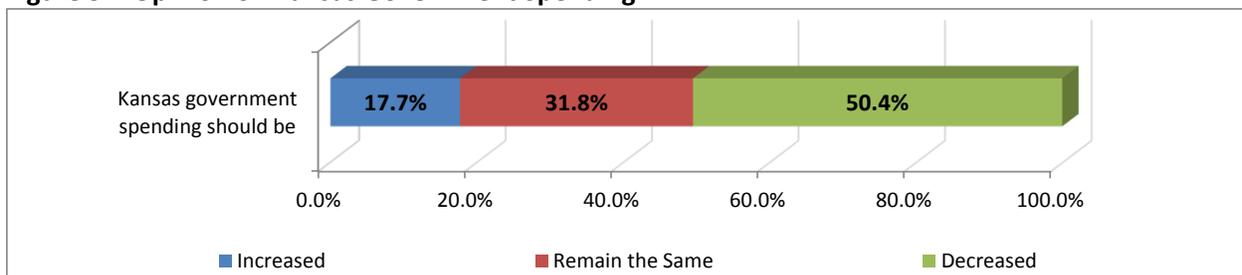


Figure 53: Satisfaction with Performance of Governor Brownback by Voting Behavior



When asked about Kansas government spending, 17.7% of respondents thought it should be “increased,” 31.8% thought it should “remain the same,” and 50.4% thought it should be “decreased” (Figure 54). Respondent’s opinion on Kansas government spending was associated with the education, Hispanic origin, and party affiliation variables. Except for respondents whose education level was “less than high school,” the higher a respondent’s education level, the more likely he or she was to support increase of government spending (Figure 55). Respondents of Hispanic origin were much more likely to support spending increases than respondents who were not Hispanic (Figure 56). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to support spending increases than Republican respondents, and those who were leaning Republican and independent (Figure 57).

Figure 54: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending



Question: *Do you believe that Kansas government spending should be increased, remain the same, or decreased?*

Figure 55: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Education

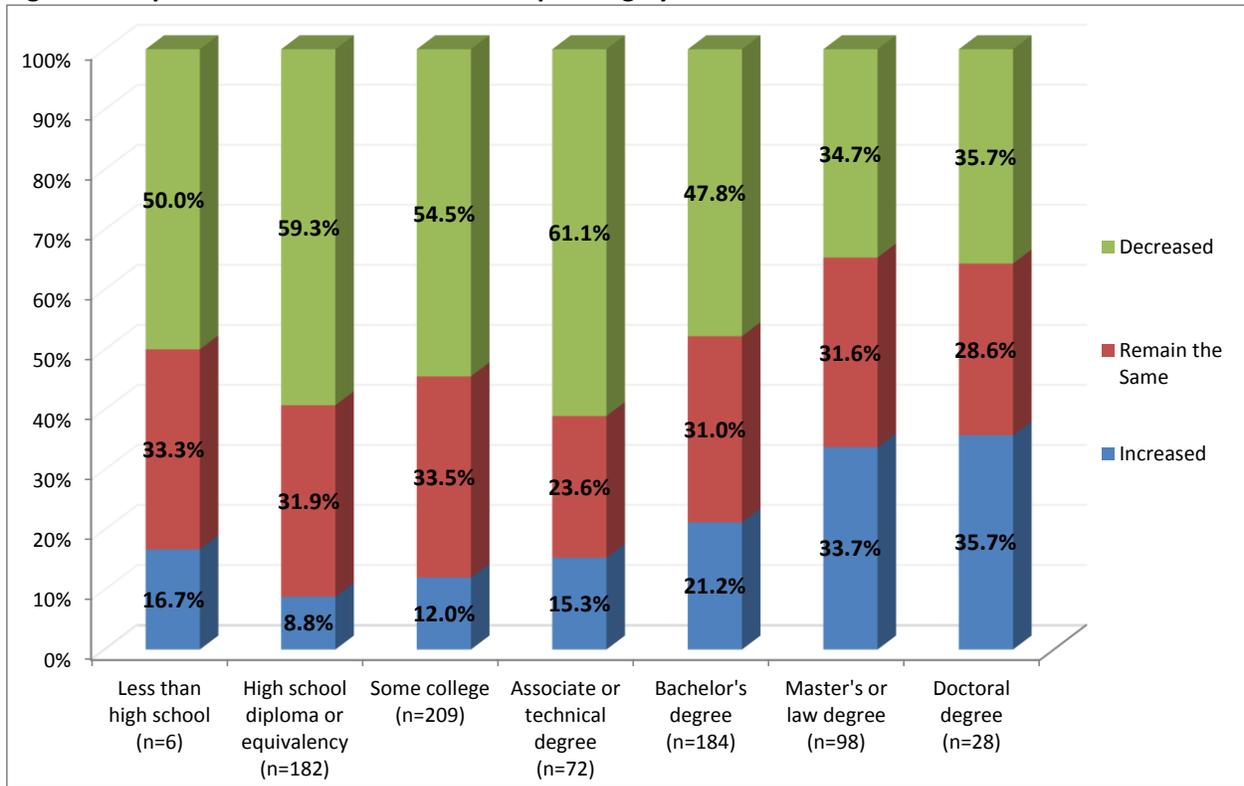


Figure 56: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Hispanic Origin

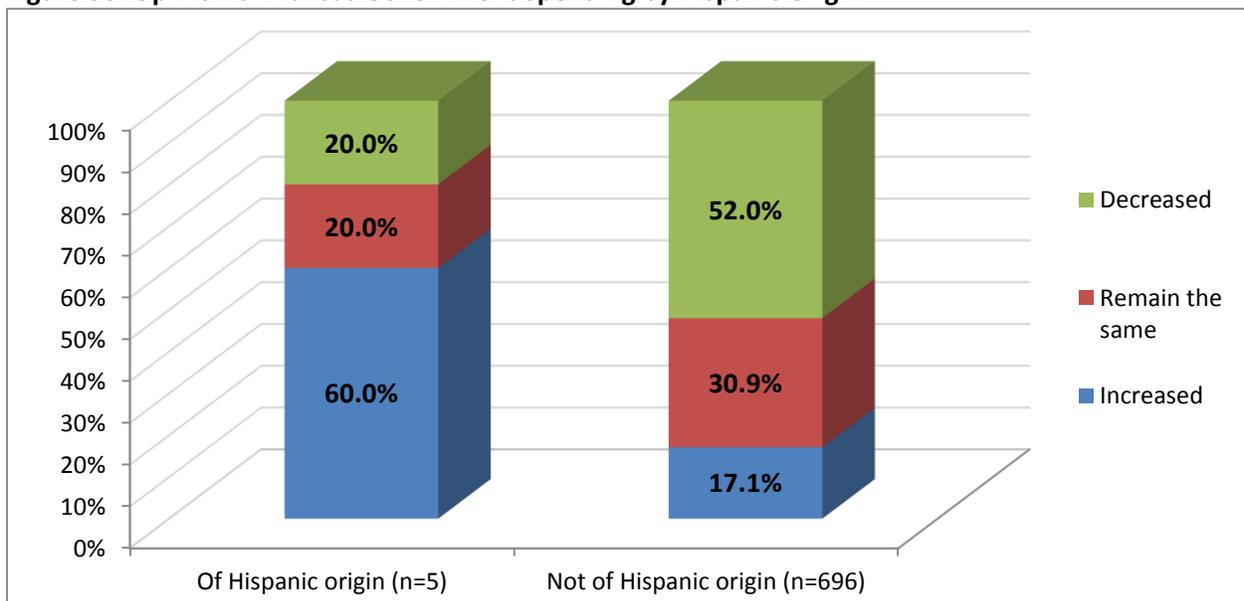
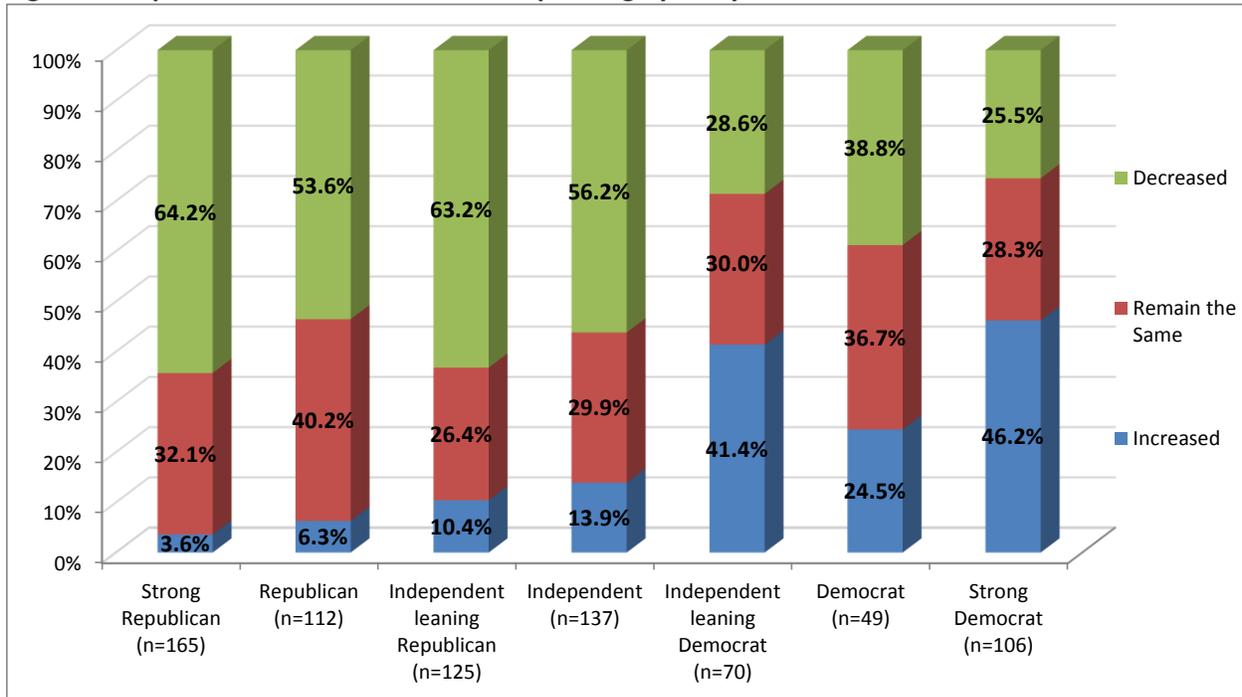


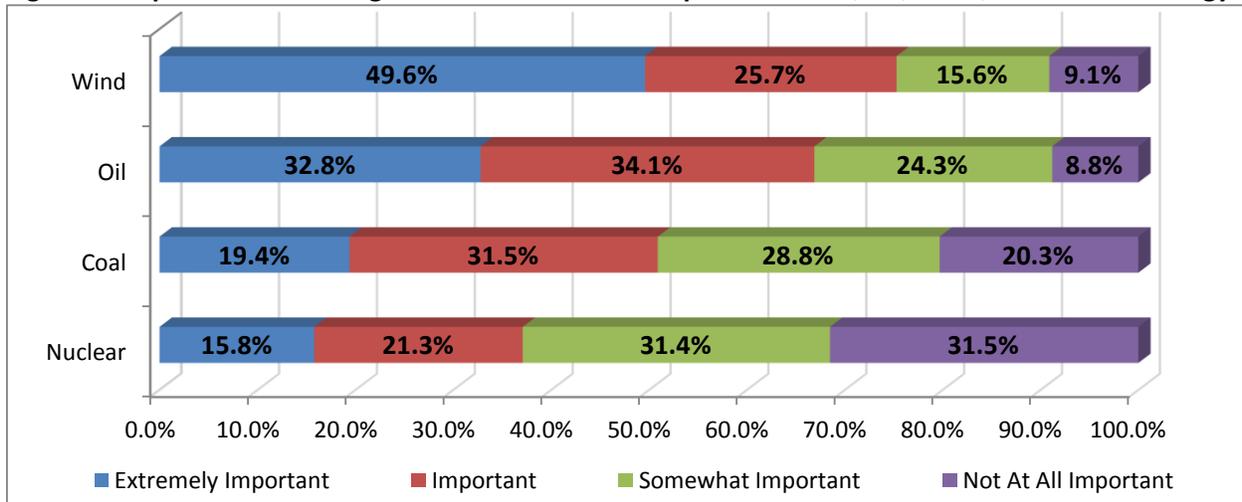
Figure 57: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Party Affiliation



Section 5: Energy Policy

The survey asked about the importance for Kansas to develop coal, oil, wind, and nuclear energy. Respondents' support for the development of wind energy was very high. About three quarters (75.3%) of respondents thought it was "extremely important" or "important" for Kansas to develop wind energy. Support for developing oil energy ranked second. Support for developing nuclear energy was the lowest. Less than forty percent (37.1%) of respondents felt it was "extremely important" or "important" to develop nuclear energy (Figure 58).

Figure 58: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal, Oil, Wind, and Nuclear Energy



Question: *How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to the development of the following energy sources?*

Respondents with different education varied in their opinion on the development of coal. In general, respondents with higher education were more likely to think it was “not at all important” or only “somewhat important” for Kansas to develop coal (Figure 59).

Respondent’s opinion on the development of oil energy was related to the age, education, and income variables. Respondents who were 35 years to 64 years old were less likely to think it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop oil than those who were younger and older (Figure 60). In general, respondents with higher education were less likely to think it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop oil than those with lower education (Figure 61), as were respondents with higher family income as compared with those with lower family income (Figure 62).

Figure 59: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal by Education

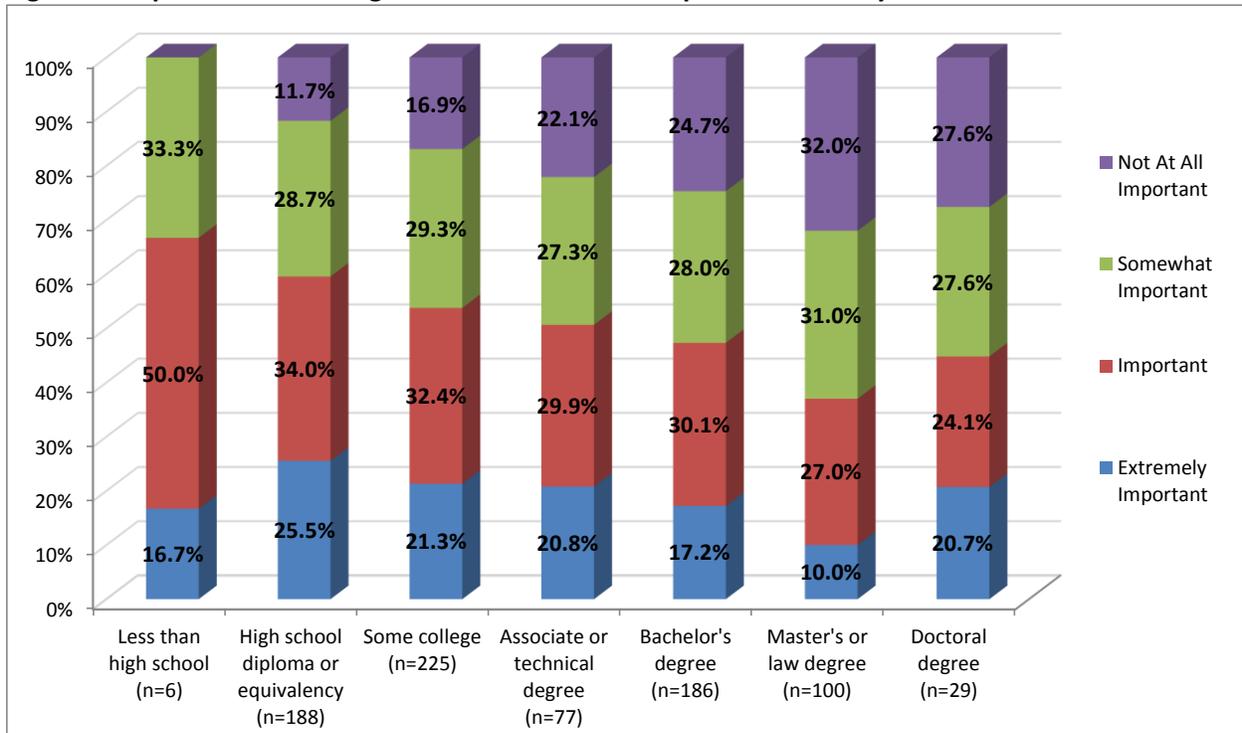


Figure 60: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Age

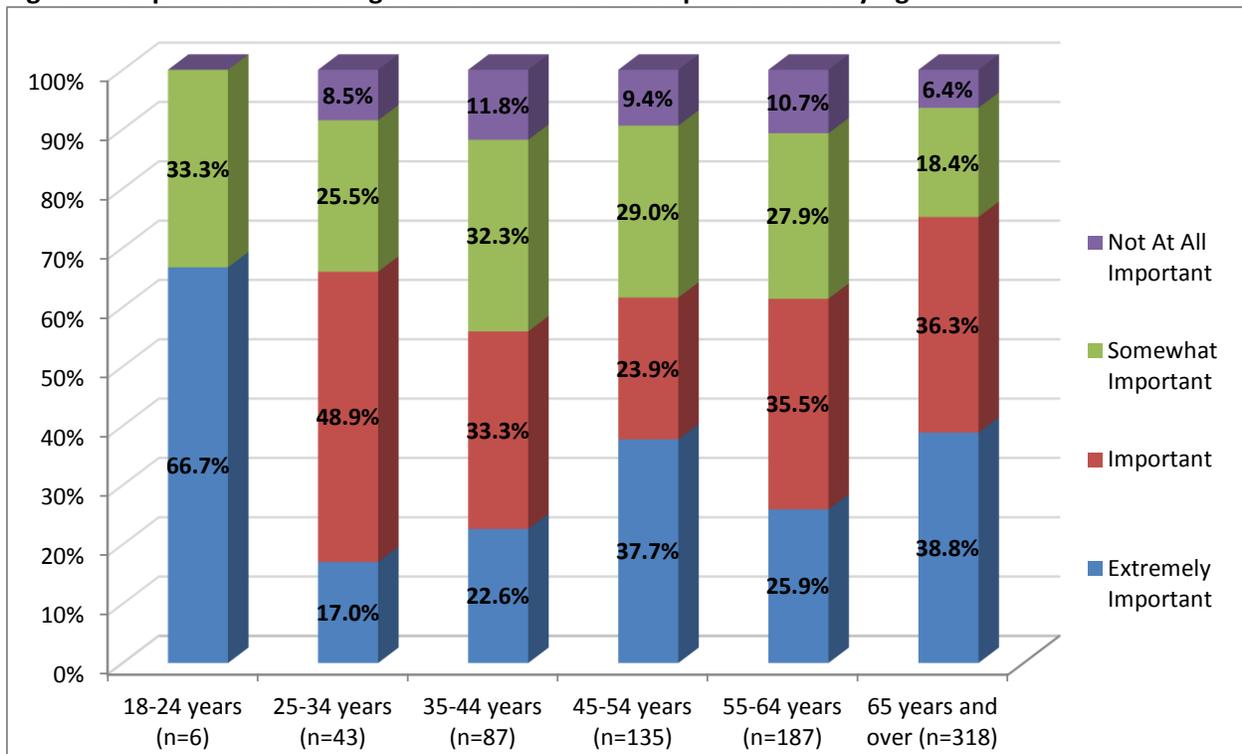


Figure 61: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Education

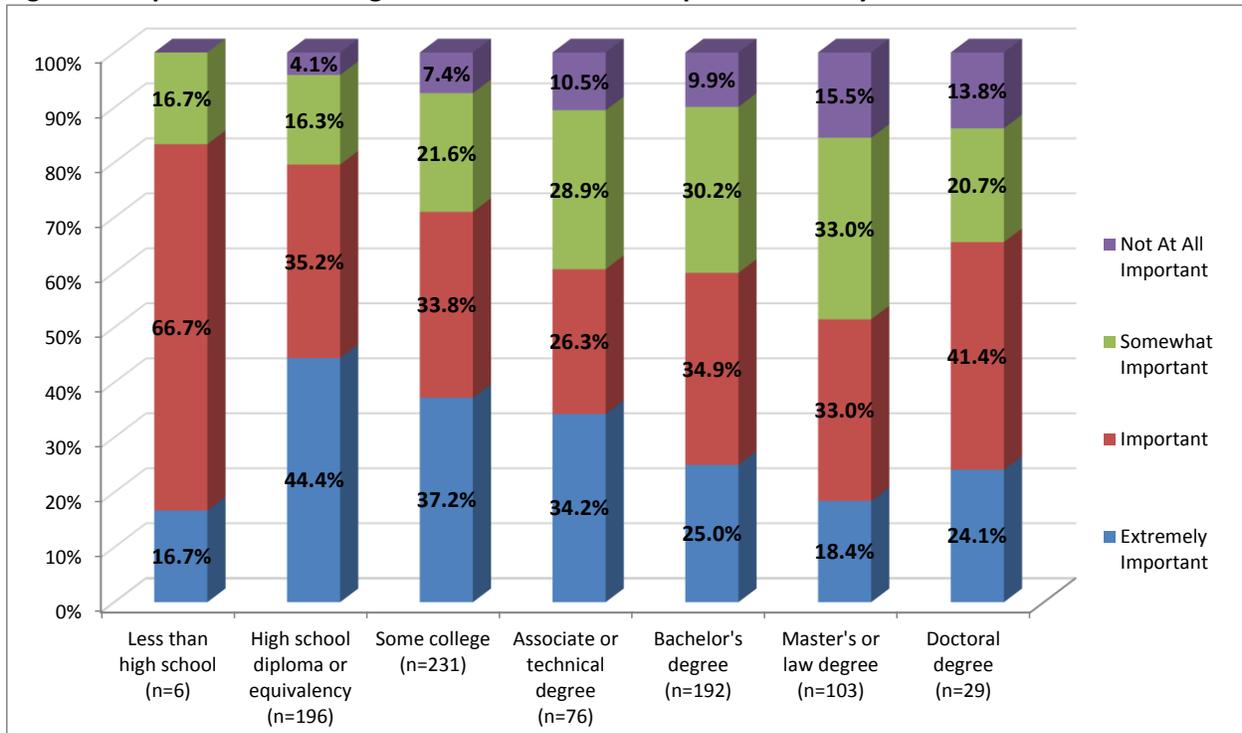
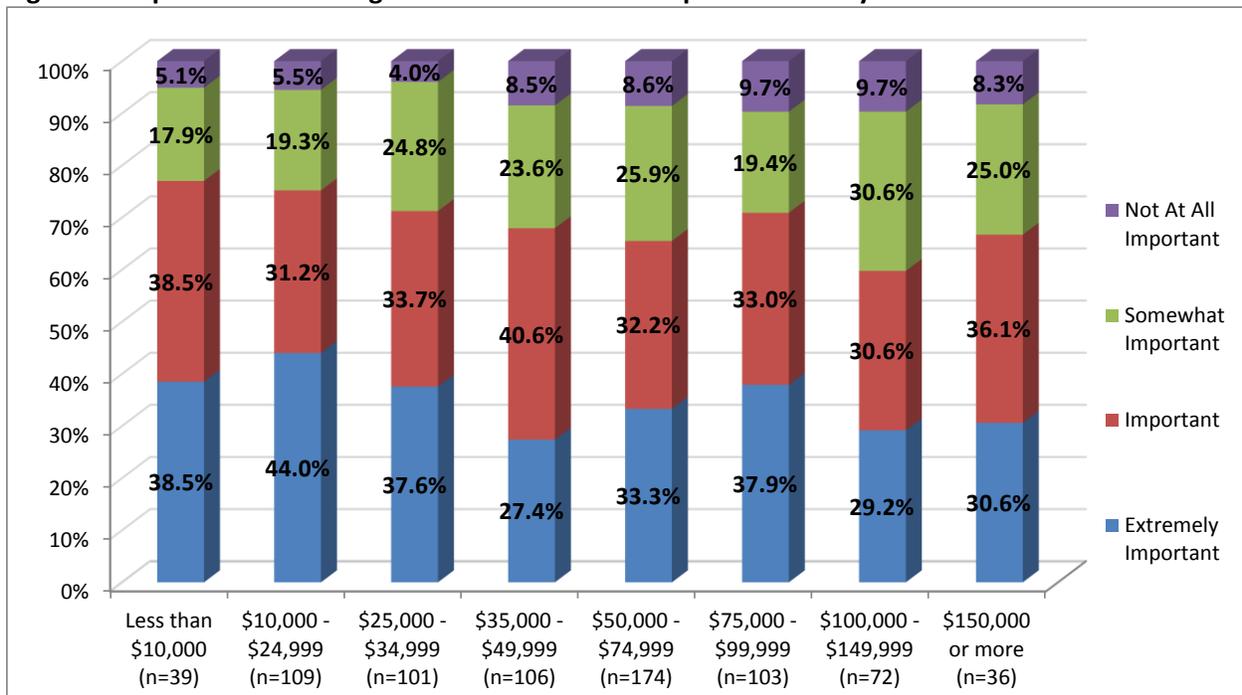


Figure 62: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Income



Respondents with different gender, income, and races differed in their opinions on the development of wind energy. Almost eighty percent (78.5%) of female respondents thought it was “extremely important” or “important” to develop wind energy in Kansas, 7.5% higher than that of male respondents (Figure 63). In general, respondents with higher family income were less likely to feel it was “extremely important” or “important” to develop wind energy in Kansas (Figure 64). Respondents who were African American or biracial were less likely to say it was “extremely important” or “important” to develop wind energy than other racial groups (Figure 65).

Figure 63: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy by Gender

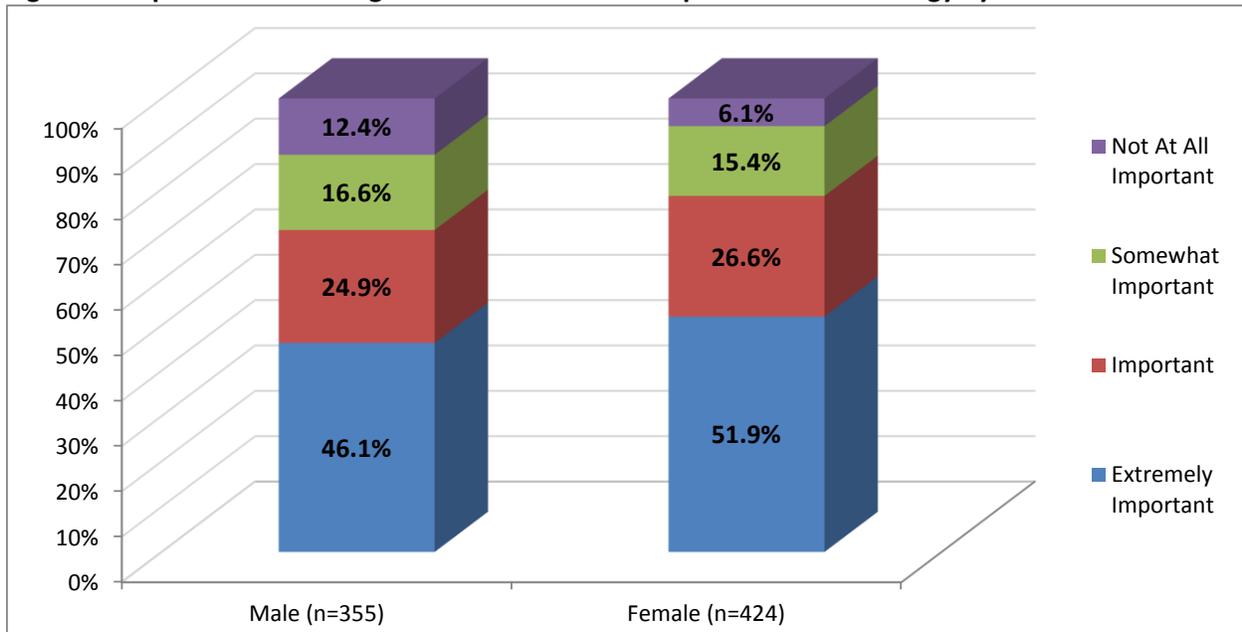


Figure 64: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy by Income

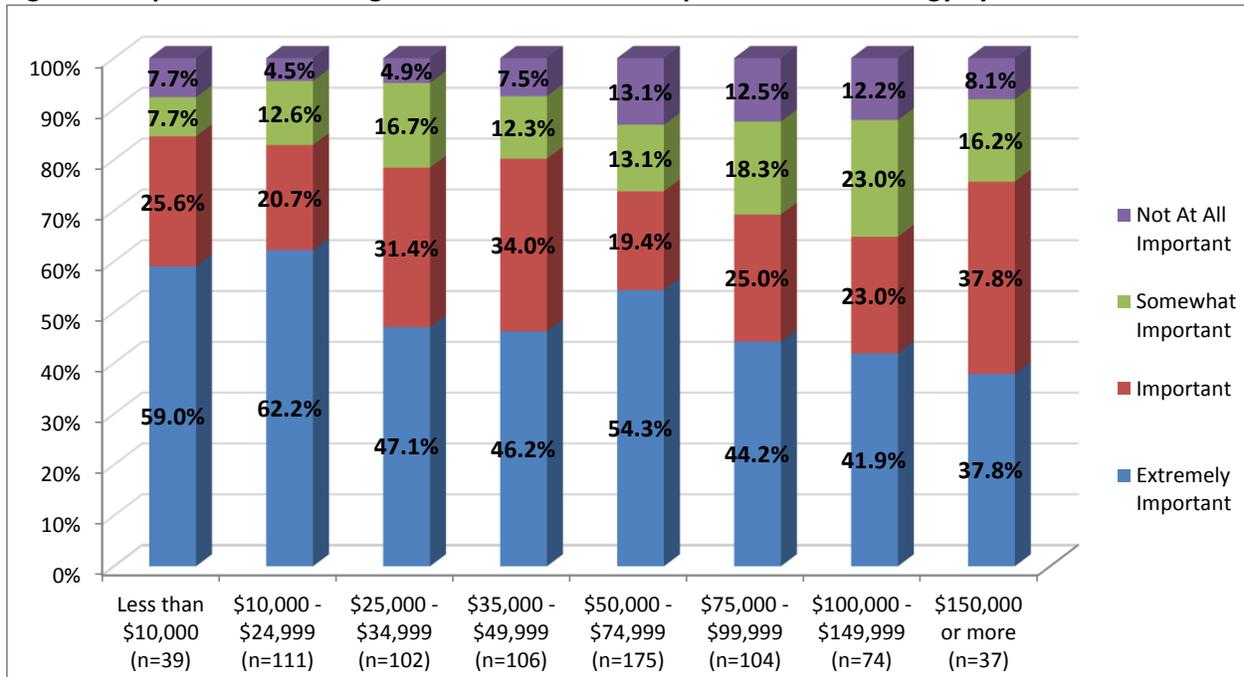
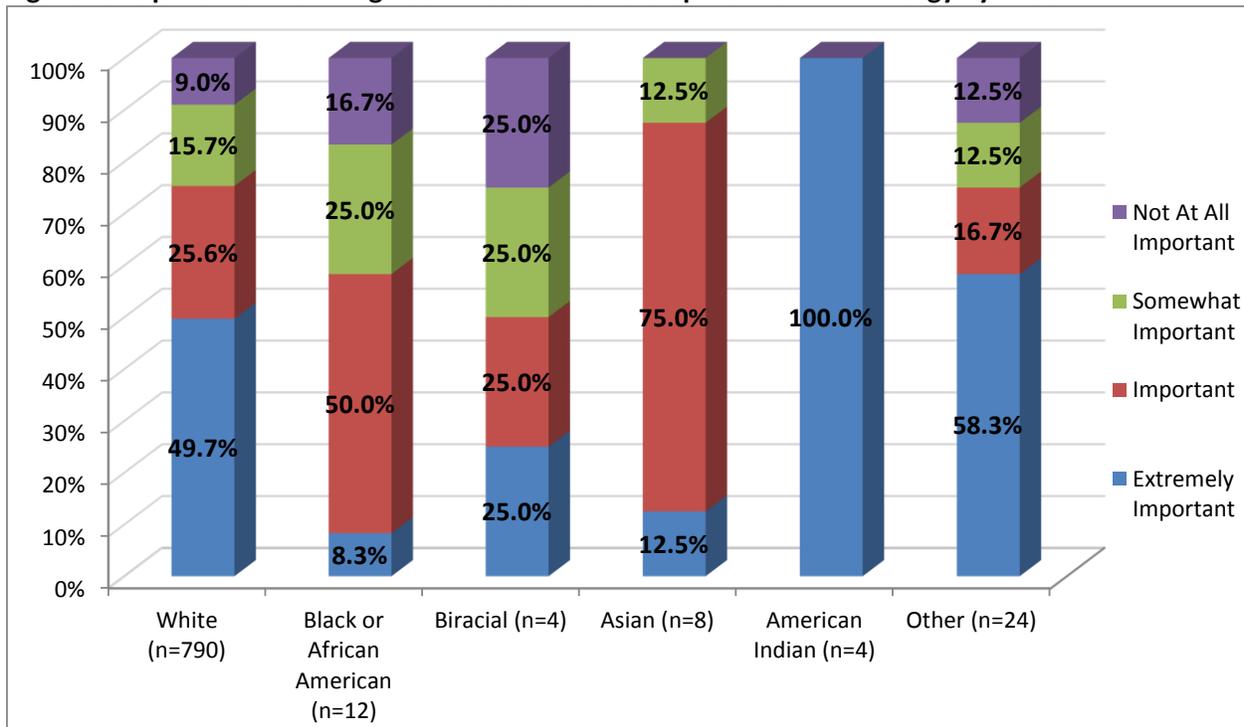


Figure 65: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy by Race



Respondent’s opinion on the development of nuclear energy was related to gender. Male respondents were more likely to support the development of nuclear energy. More than forty percent (43.7%) of male respondents thought it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of nuclear energy. Less than a third (31.5%) of female respondents thought so (Figure 66).

Respondents with different party affiliations varied in their opinions on energy policies. In general, Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were less likely to say it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of coal, oil, and nuclear energy, but more likely to say it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of wind energy (Figures 67, 68, 69, and 70).

Figure 66: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Nuclear Energy by Gender

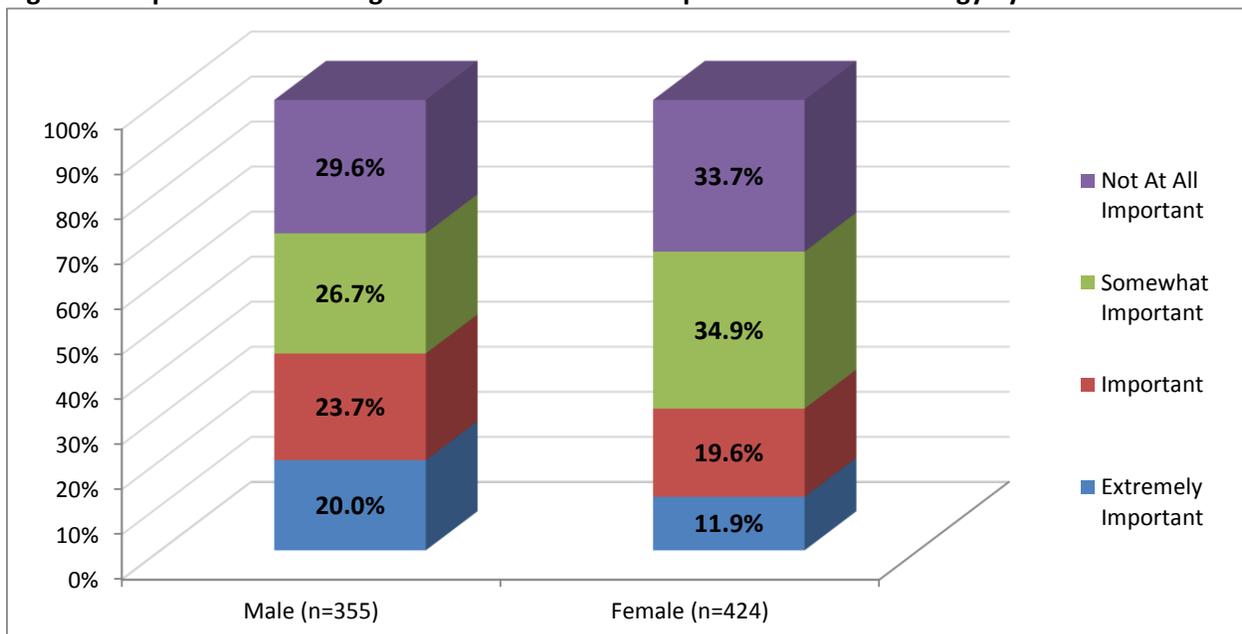


Figure 67: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal by Party Affiliation

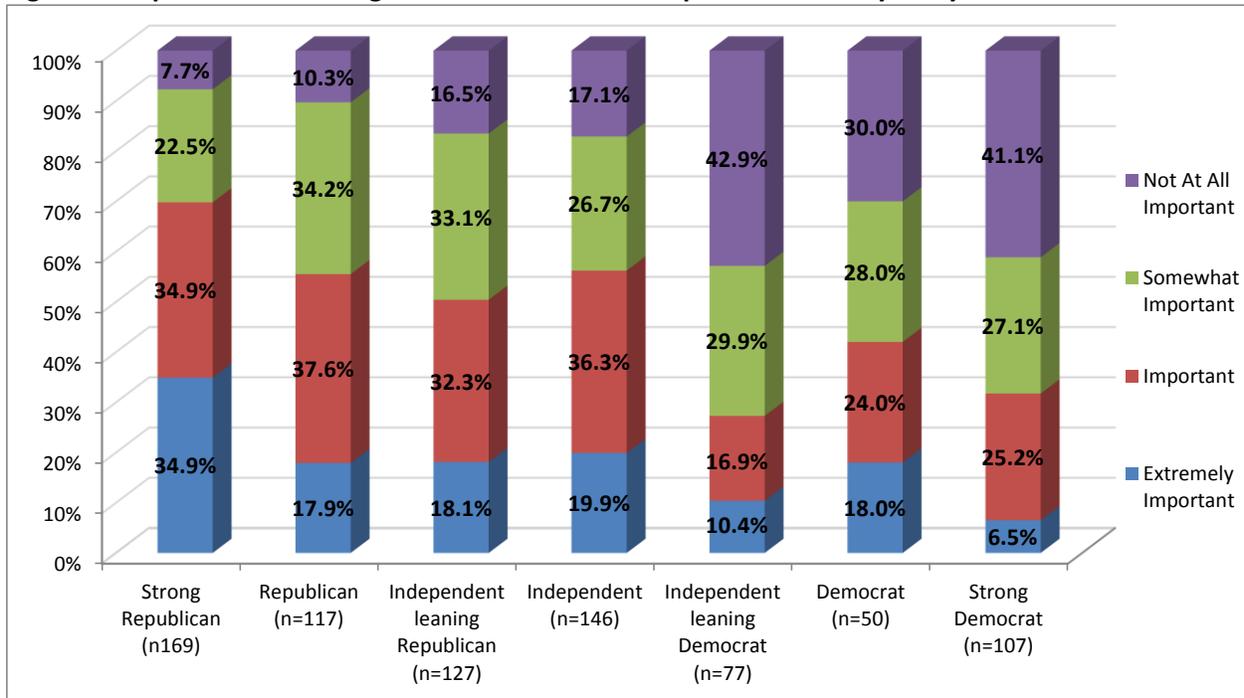


Figure 68: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Party Affiliation

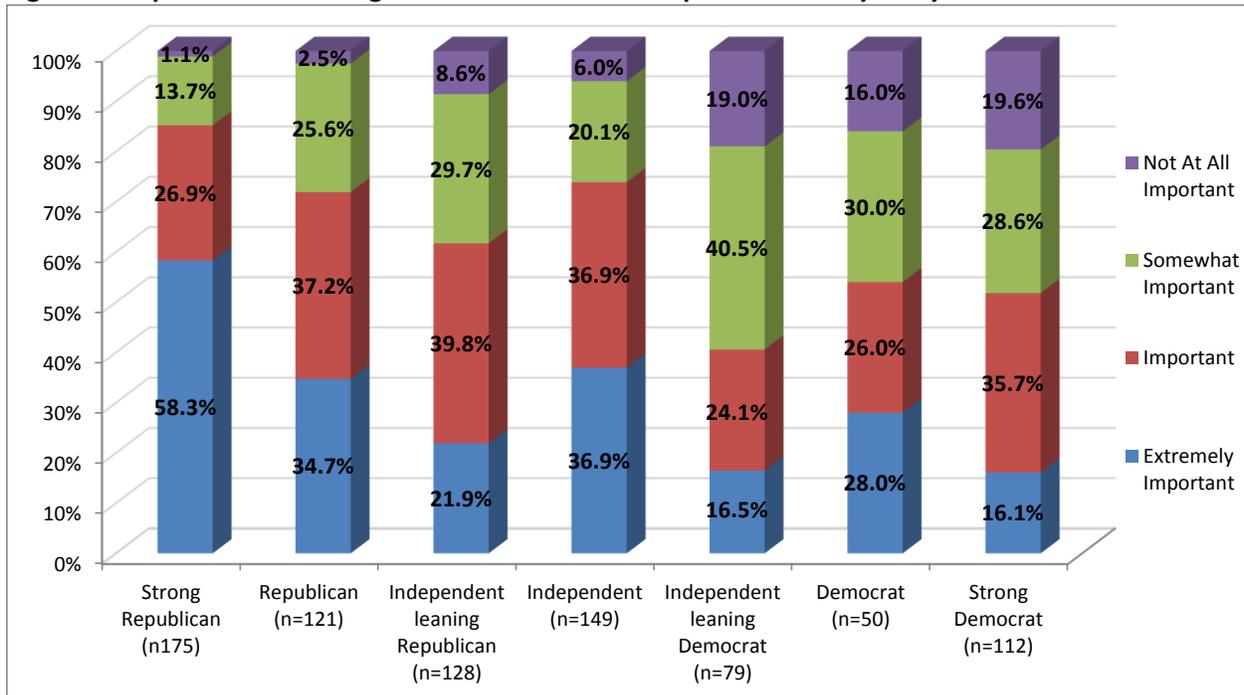


Figure 69: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind by Party Affiliation

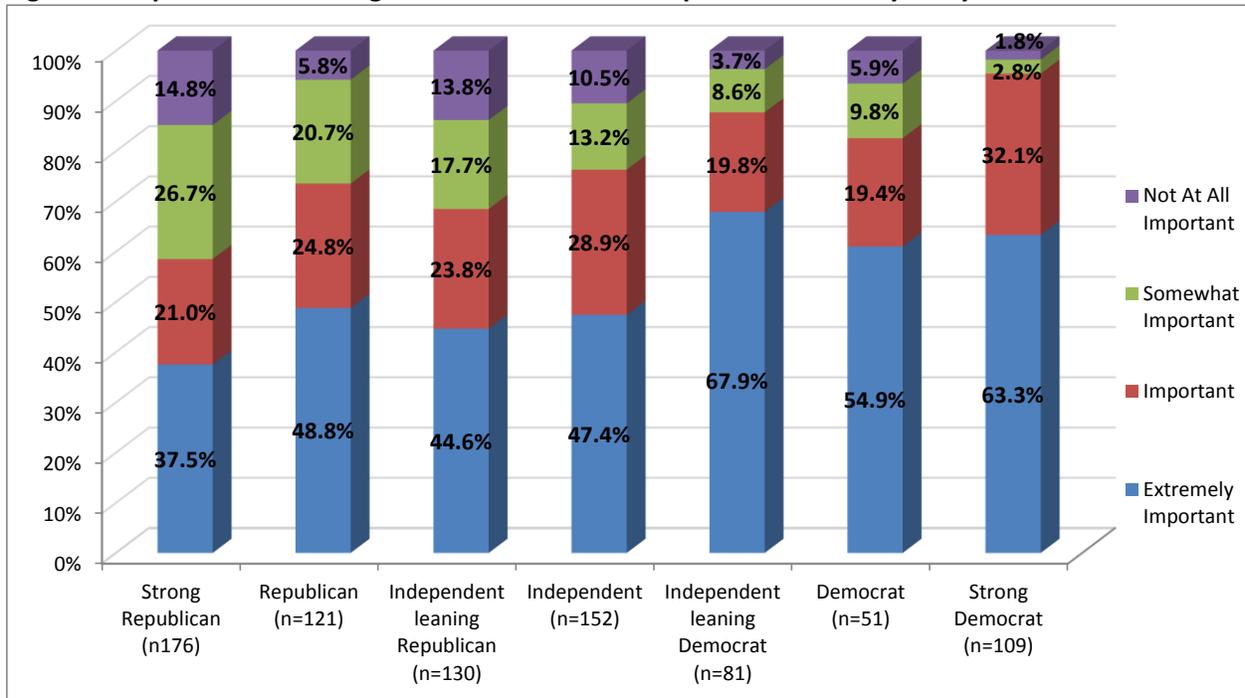
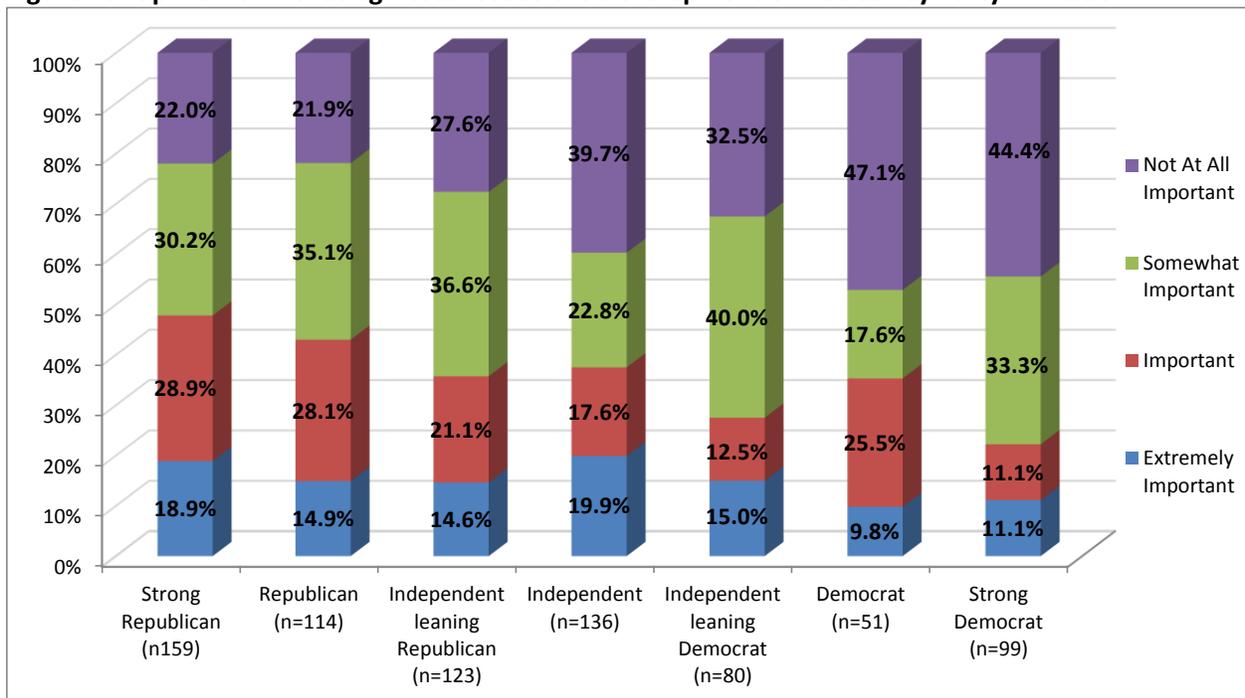


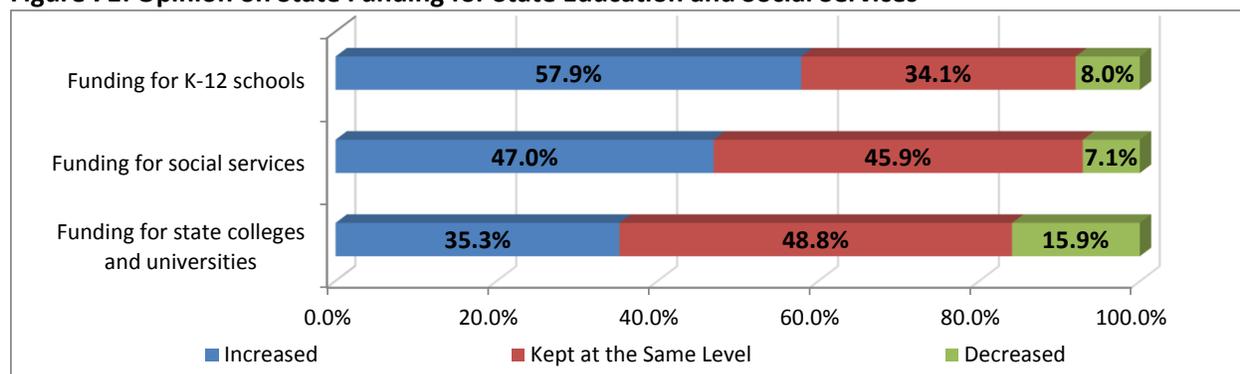
Figure 70: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Nuclear by Party Affiliation



Section 6: Public Policy Issues

Respondents were asked if the current levels of state funding for grades kindergarten through high school (K – 12), state colleges and universities, and social services (such as senior and disability services) should be “increased,” “kept at the same level,” or “decreased.” As Figure 71 shows, 57.9% of respondents thought the state funding for K – 12 should be “increased.” The majority (48.8%) preferred to keep funding for higher education at its current level. Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents thought the state funding for social services should be increased.

Figure 71: Opinion on State Funding for State Education and Social Services



Question: *Think about the current level of state funding for grades kindergarten through high school, for state colleges and universities, and for social services, such as senior and disability services, would you say that the amount of funding should be increased, kept at the same level, or decreased?*

Female respondents’ opinions on state funding for education and social services were all significantly different from male respondents’ opinions. Female respondents were more likely to support state funding increases for education and social services than male respondents (Figures 72, 73, and 74). Respondents with different party affiliations also varied in their opinions on state funding for education and social services. Compared with Republican respondents and those leaning Republican, Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to support state funding increases for education and social services (Figures 75, 76, and 77).

Figure 72: Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Gender

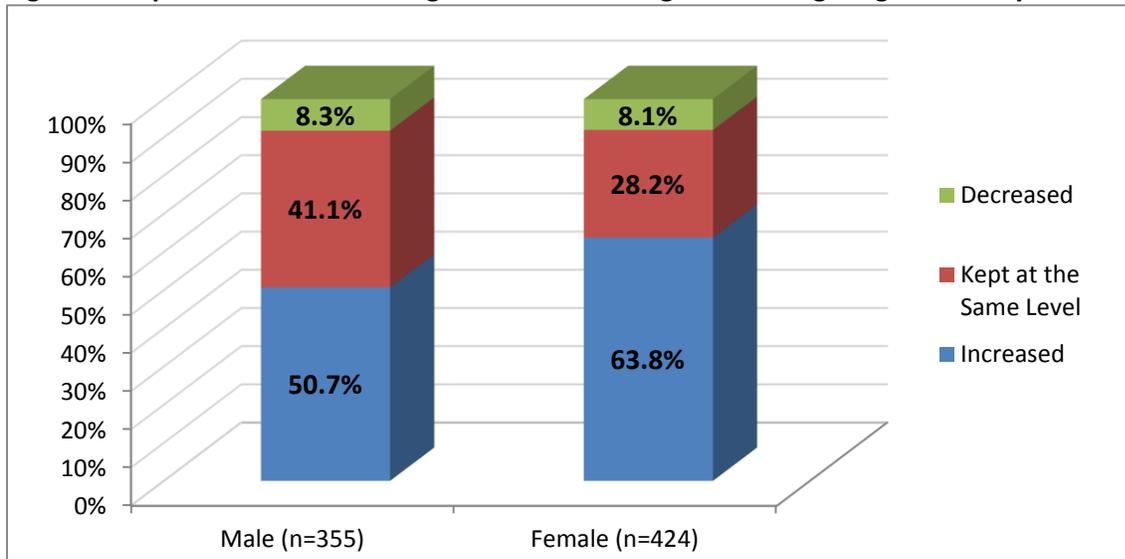


Figure 73: Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities by Gender

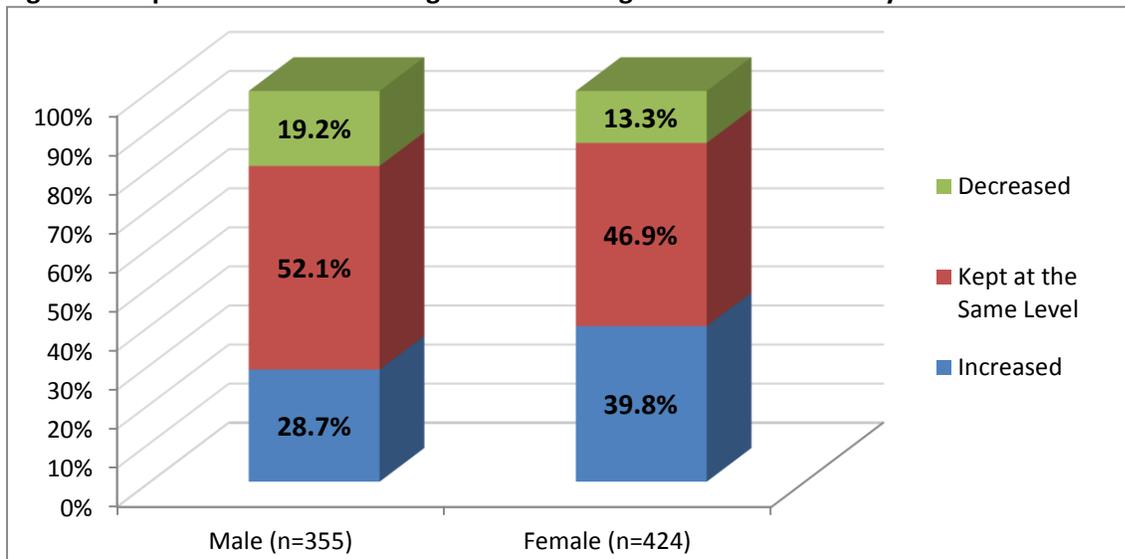


Figure 74: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Gender

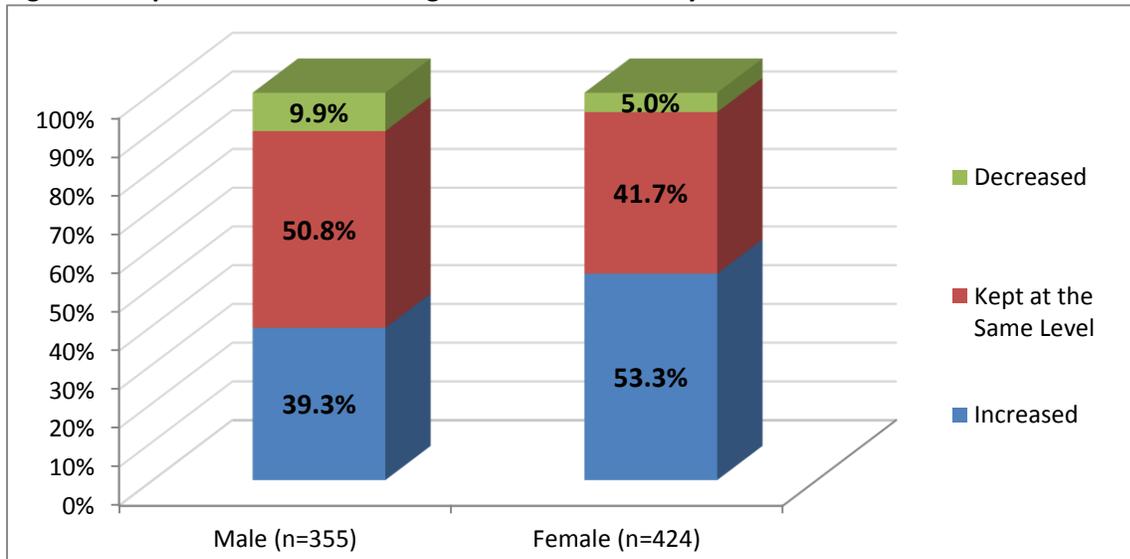


Figure 75: Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Party Affiliation

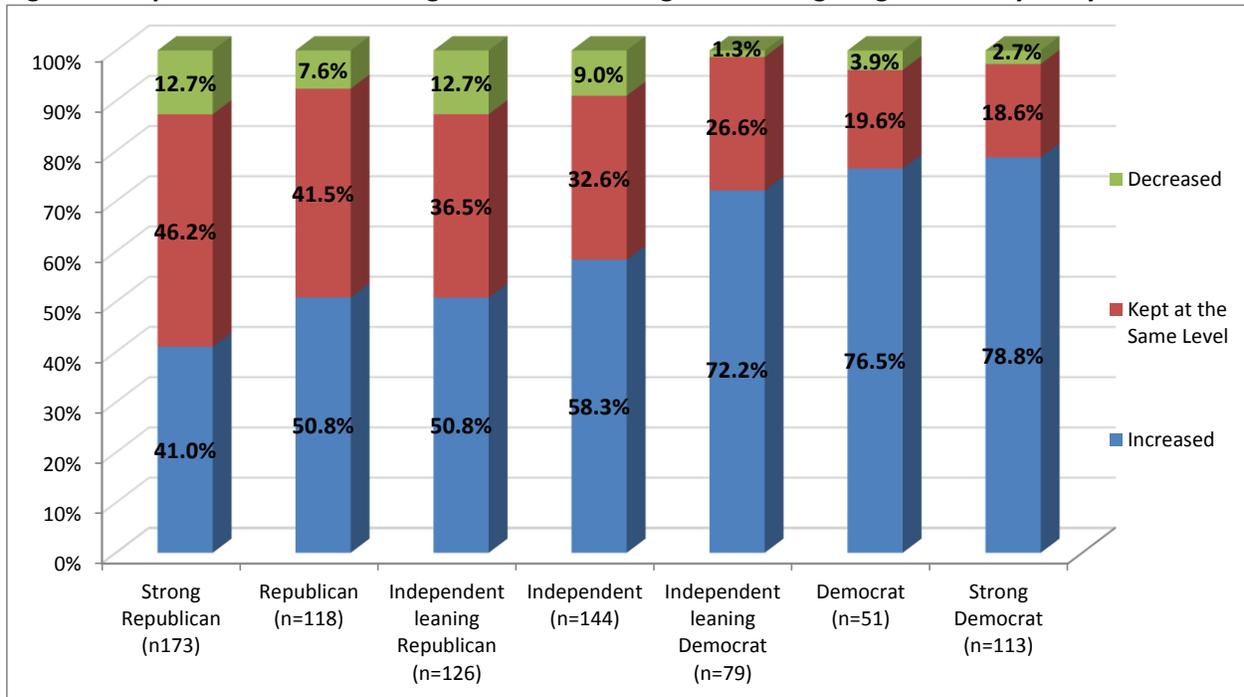


Figure 76: Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities by Party Affiliation

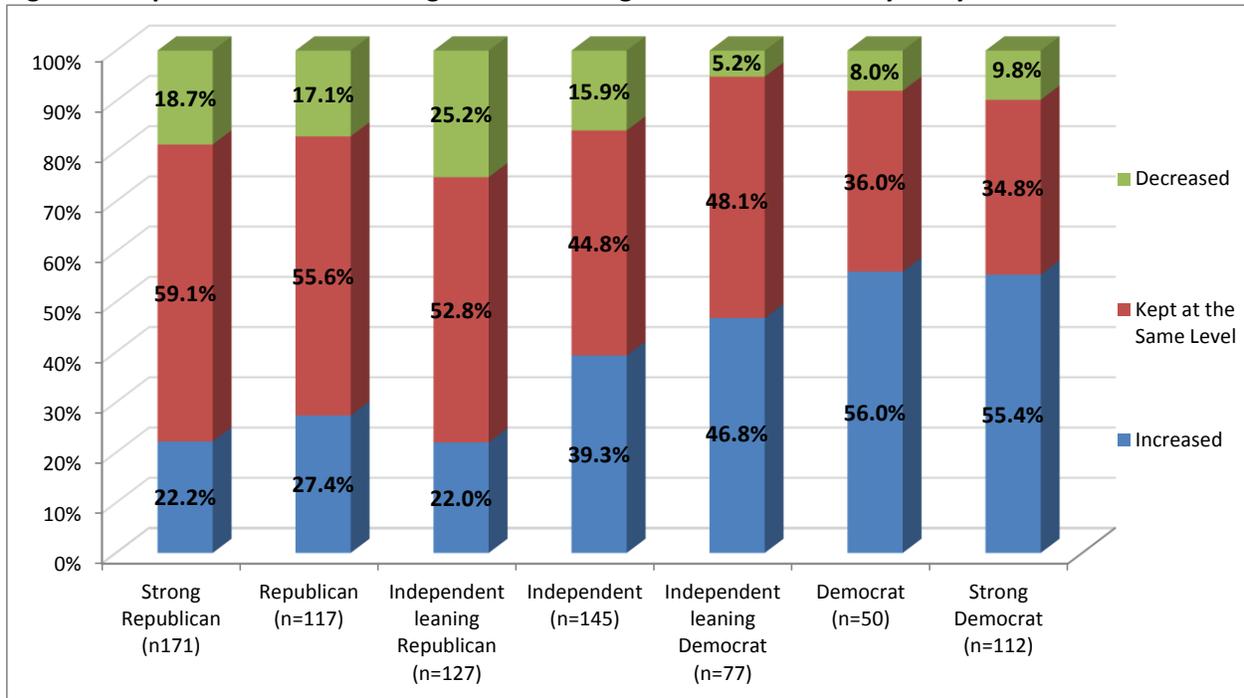
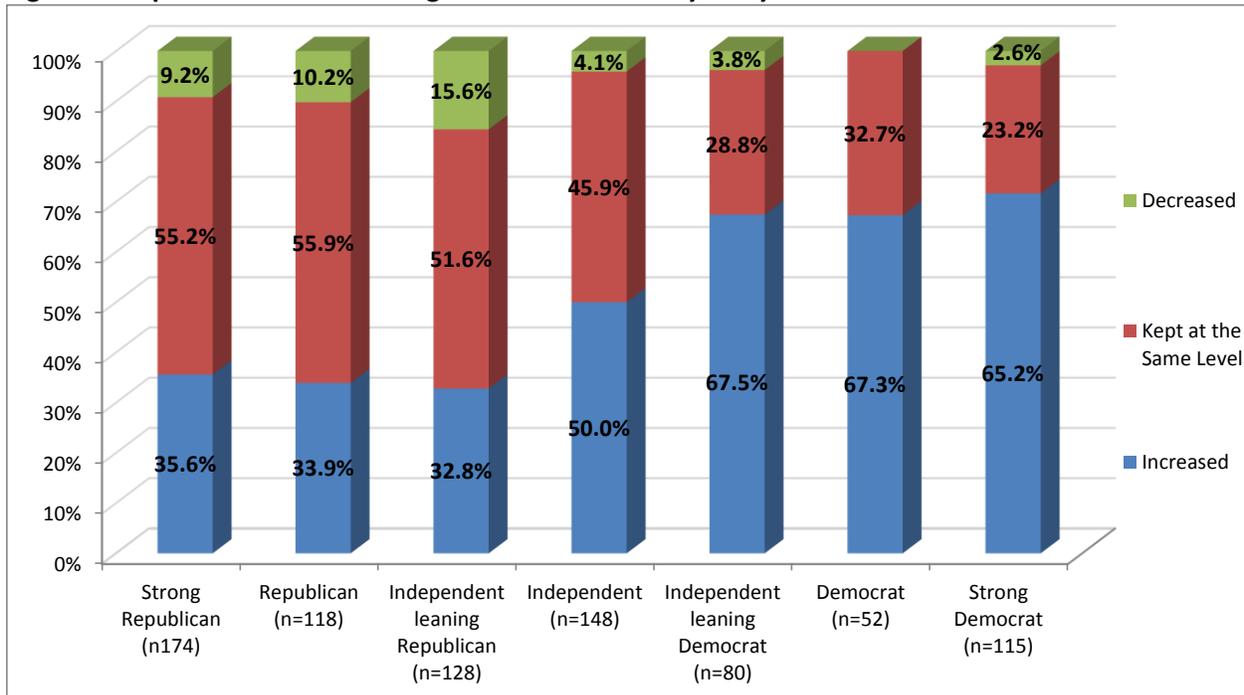


Figure 77: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Party Affiliation



Besides gender and party affiliation, the age and education variables were also related to respondent's opinion on state funding for grades kindergarten through high school (K-12). In general, as the age variable increased, the percentage of respondents who supported increased state funding for K-12 decreased (Figure 78). Except for the respondents with less than high school education, respondents with higher education were more likely to support a state funding increase for K-12 (Figure 79). Respondent's opinion on state funding for state colleges and universities was also positively associated with the education variable. Respondents with higher education in general were more likely to support state funding increase (Figure 80).

Besides gender and party affiliation, age, income, and voting behavior were also associated with respondent's opinion on state funding for social services. Except for respondents who were 65 years old and older, older respondents were more likely to support state funding increases for social services (Figure 81). Respondents with higher family income were less likely to support increased state funding (Figure 82). Respondents who voted in 2010 were also less likely to support increased state funding than those who did not vote (Figure 83).

Figure 78: Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Age

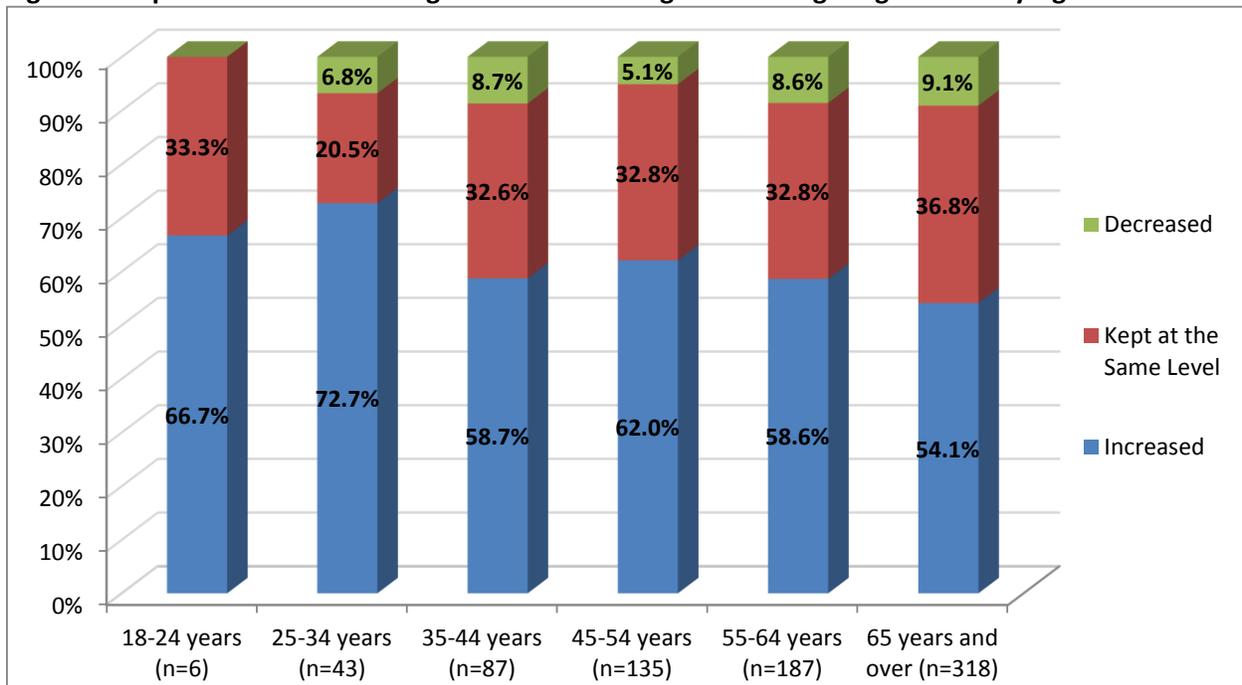


Figure 79: Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School by Education

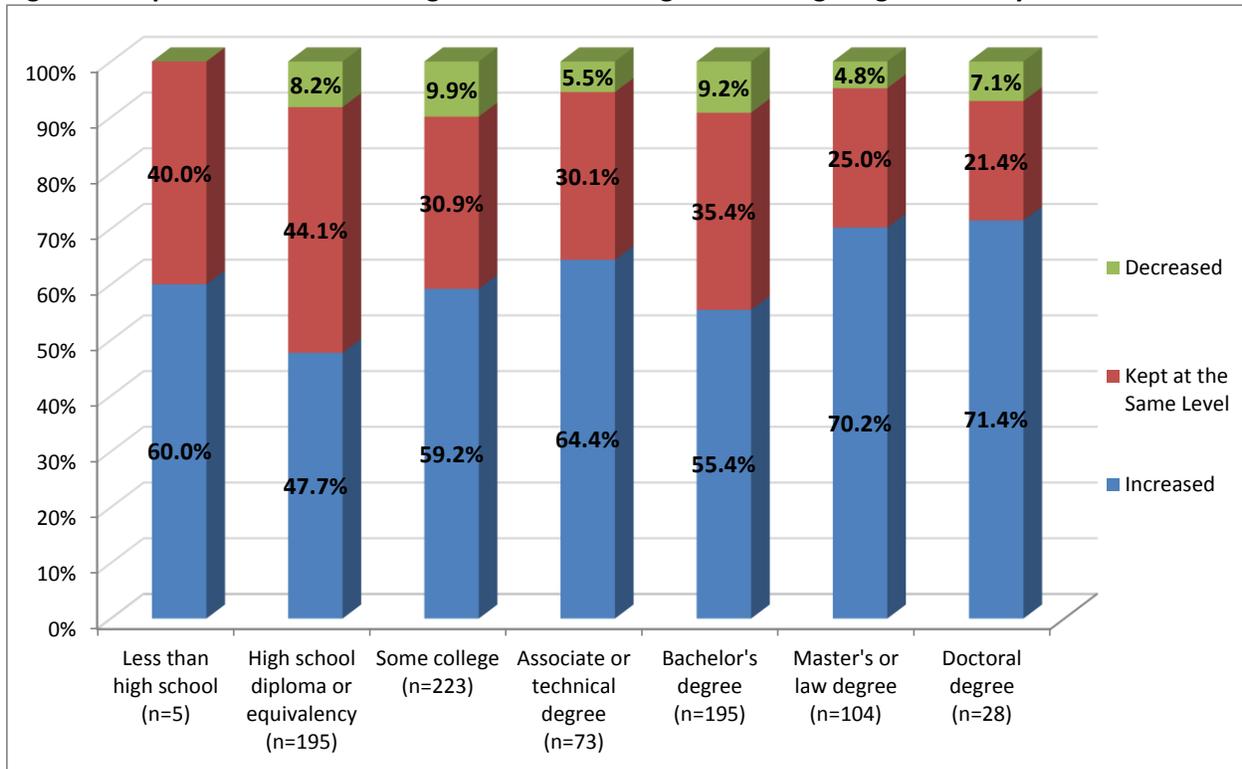


Figure 80: Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities by Education

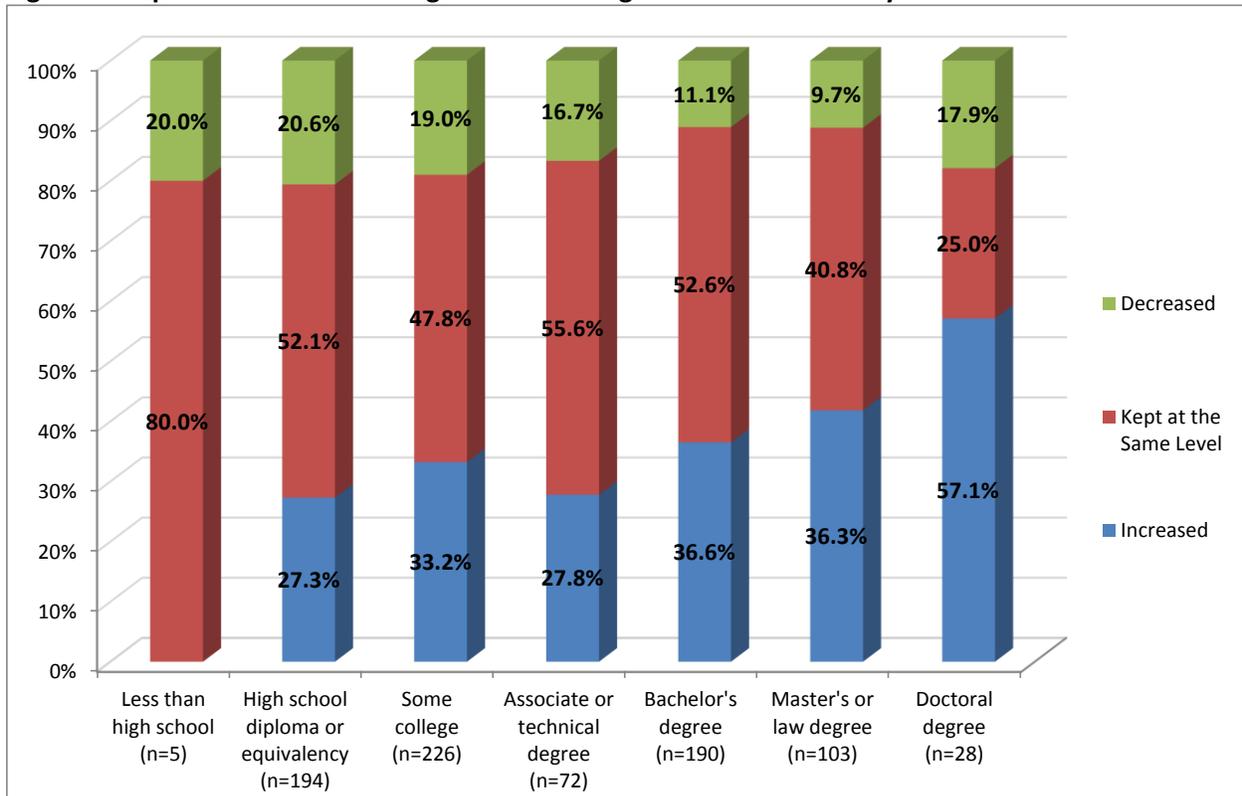


Figure 81: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Age

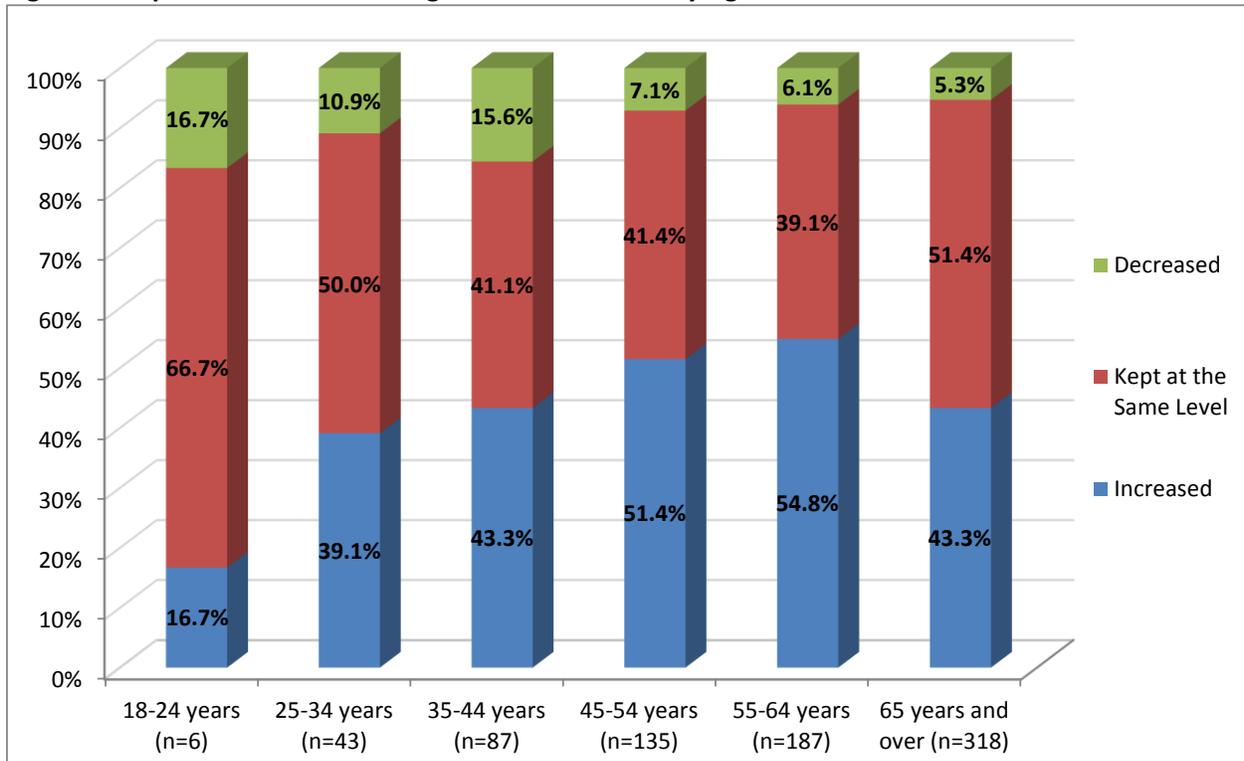
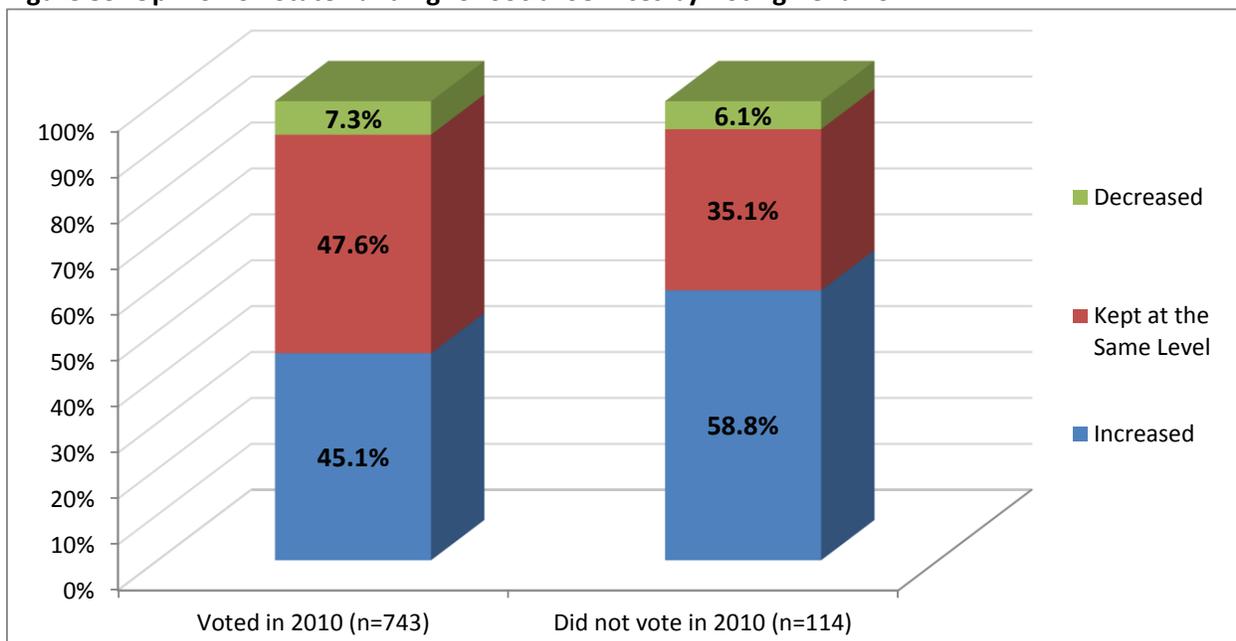


Figure 82: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Income

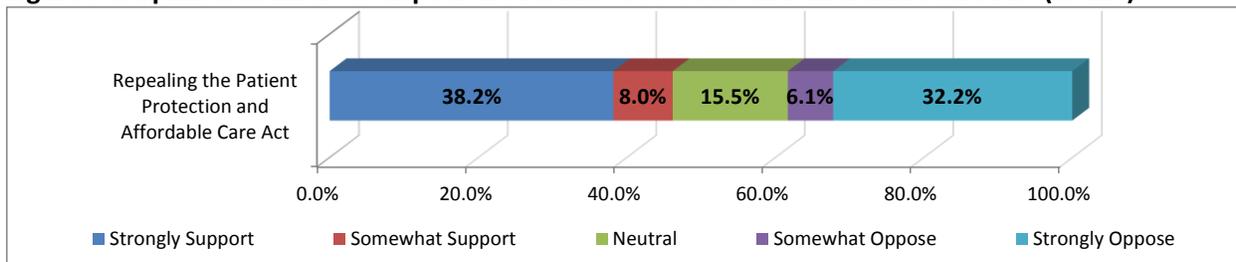


Figure 83: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Voting Behavior



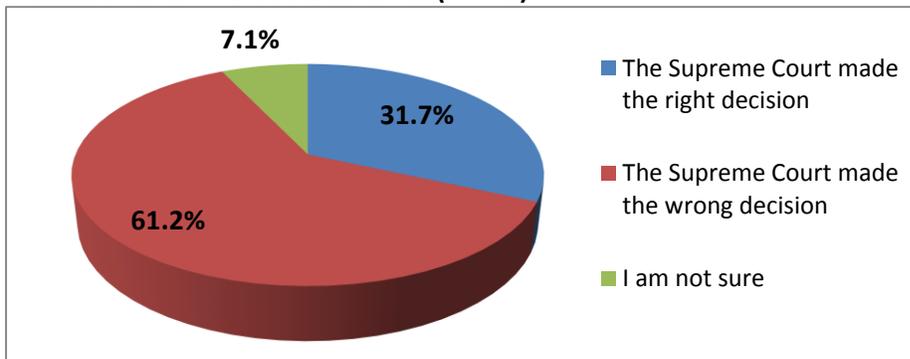
The survey asked about respondents' opinion on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The telephone survey started before June 28, 2012, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued the decision to uphold the act. The mail survey started after June 28, 2012. Before the Supreme Court issued the decision, the telephone survey asked if the respondent supports or opposes the effort to repeal the act. After the Supreme Court's decision, both telephone and mail surveys asked respondents if they believed the Supreme Court had made the right decision. Before the Supreme Court issued the decision, 46.2% of the respondents who participated in the telephone survey "strongly supported" or "somewhat supported" the effort to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Figure 84). After the Supreme Court issued the decision, 61.2% of respondents thought that the Supreme Court had made the wrong decision to uphold the act (Figure 85).

Figure 84: Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (n=426)



Question: *In early 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives proposed a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, commonly known as Obama Care. How strongly do you support or oppose the effort to repeal this legislation?*

Figure 85: Opinion on the Supreme Court’s Decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (n=423)



Question: *in June 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision on the legality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, commonly known as Obama Care. Do you believe the Supreme Court made the right decision?*

Respondent’s opinion on the effort to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was associated with gender, party affiliation and voting behavior. Male respondents were more likely to “strongly support” or “somewhat support” the effort to repeal the Act than female respondents (Figure 86). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were less likely to “strongly support” or “somewhat support” the effort to repeal the Act than those who were Republican, independent leaning Republican, and independent (Figure 87). Those respondents who voted in 2010 were more likely to “strongly support” or “somewhat support” the effort to repeal the Act than those who did not vote (Figure 88).

Figure 86: Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Gender

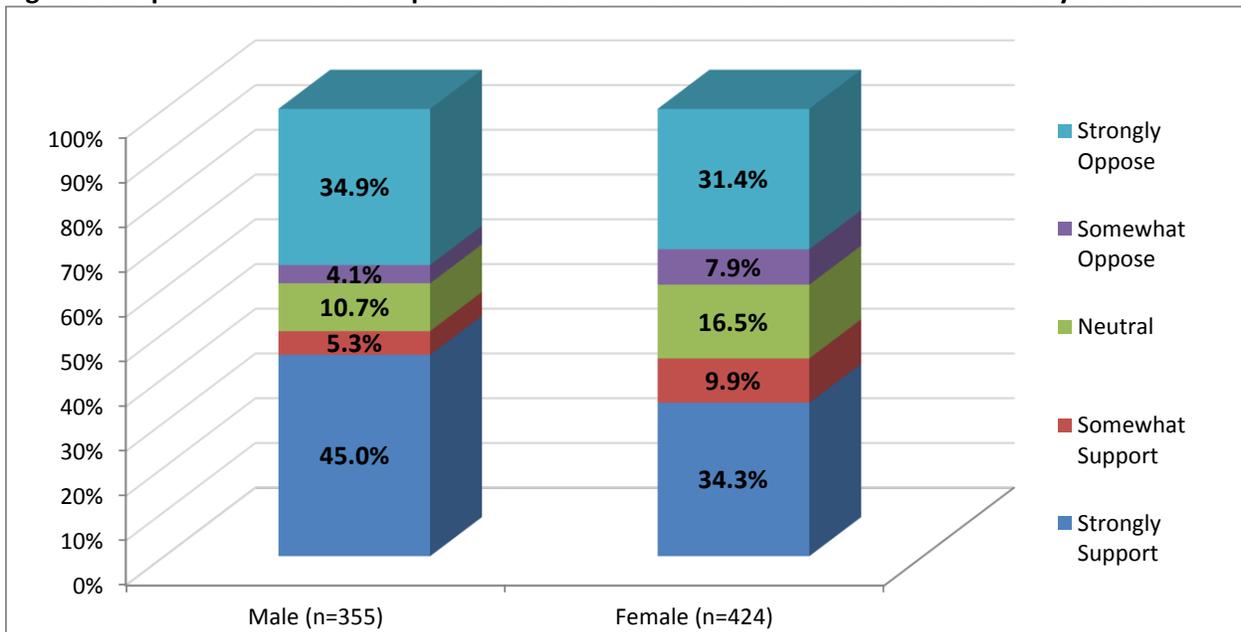


Figure 87: Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Party Affiliation

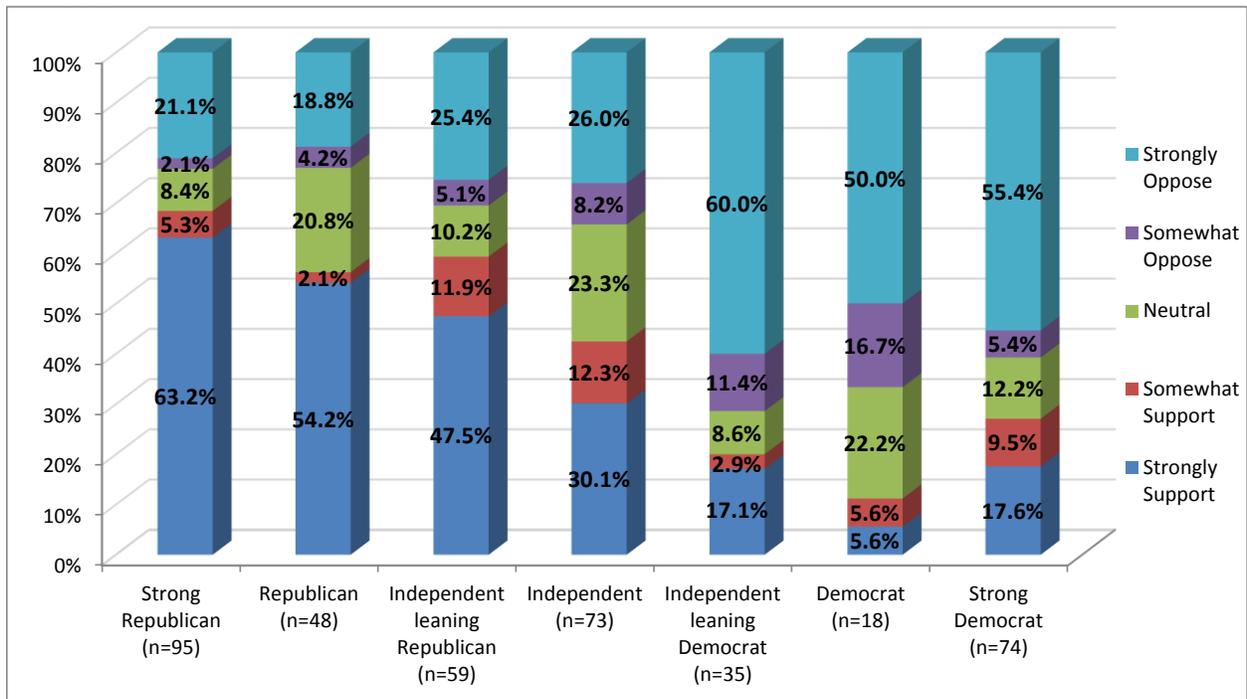
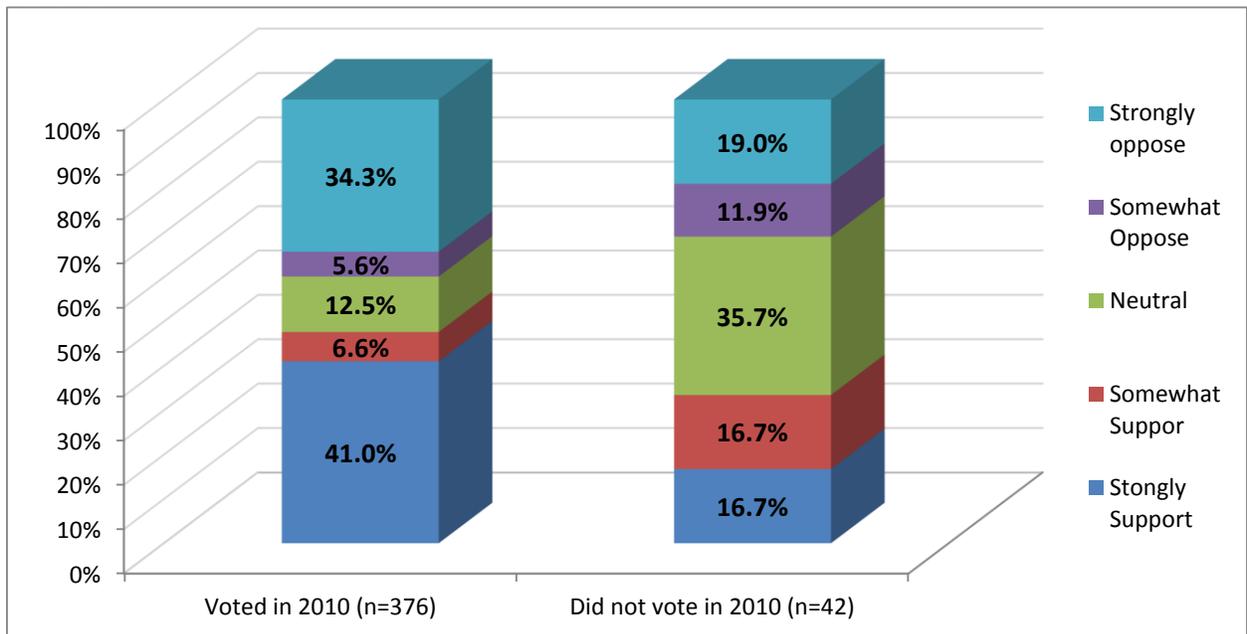


Figure 88: Opinion on Effort to Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Voting Behavior



Respondents with different education and party affiliations varied in their opinions on the Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the Patient and Affordable Care Act. Respondents who had higher education were more likely to think the Supreme Court made the right decision to uphold the Act (Figure 89). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to think the Supreme Court made the right decision than those who were Republican, independent leaning Republican, and independent (Figure 90).

Figure 89: Opinion on the Supreme Court’s Decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Education

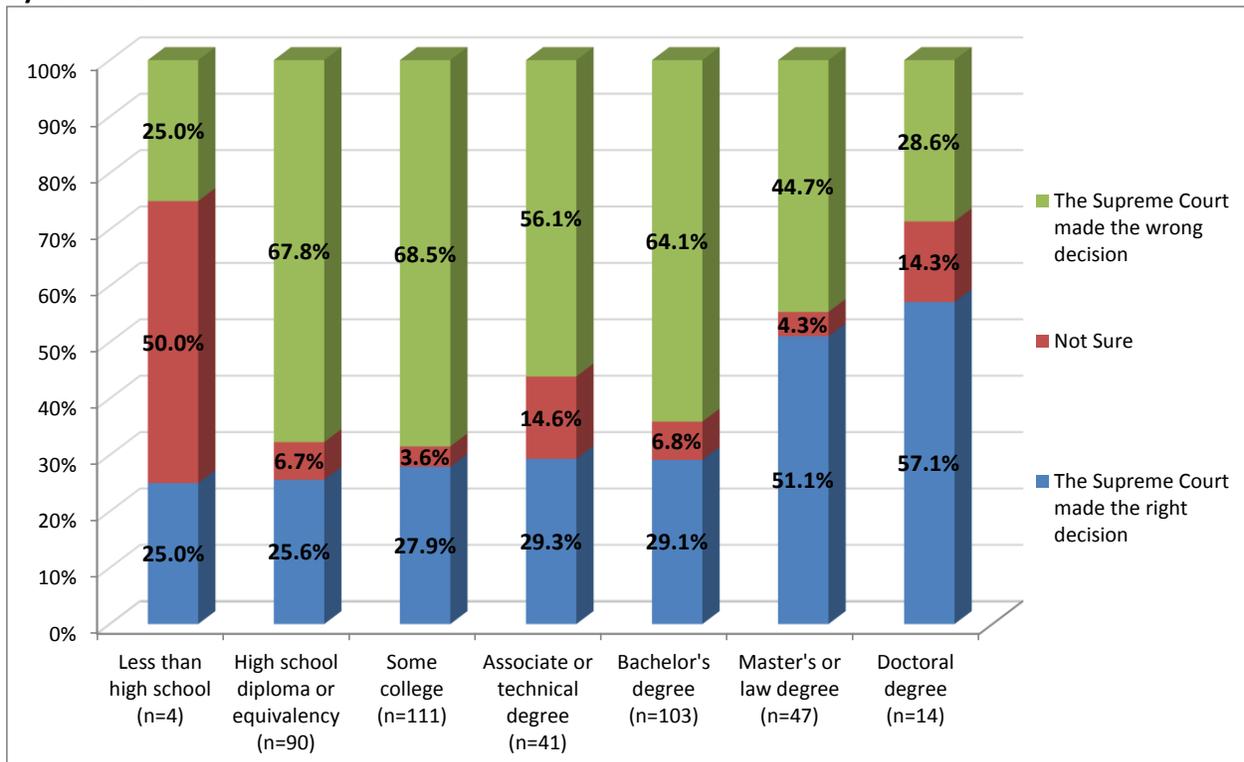
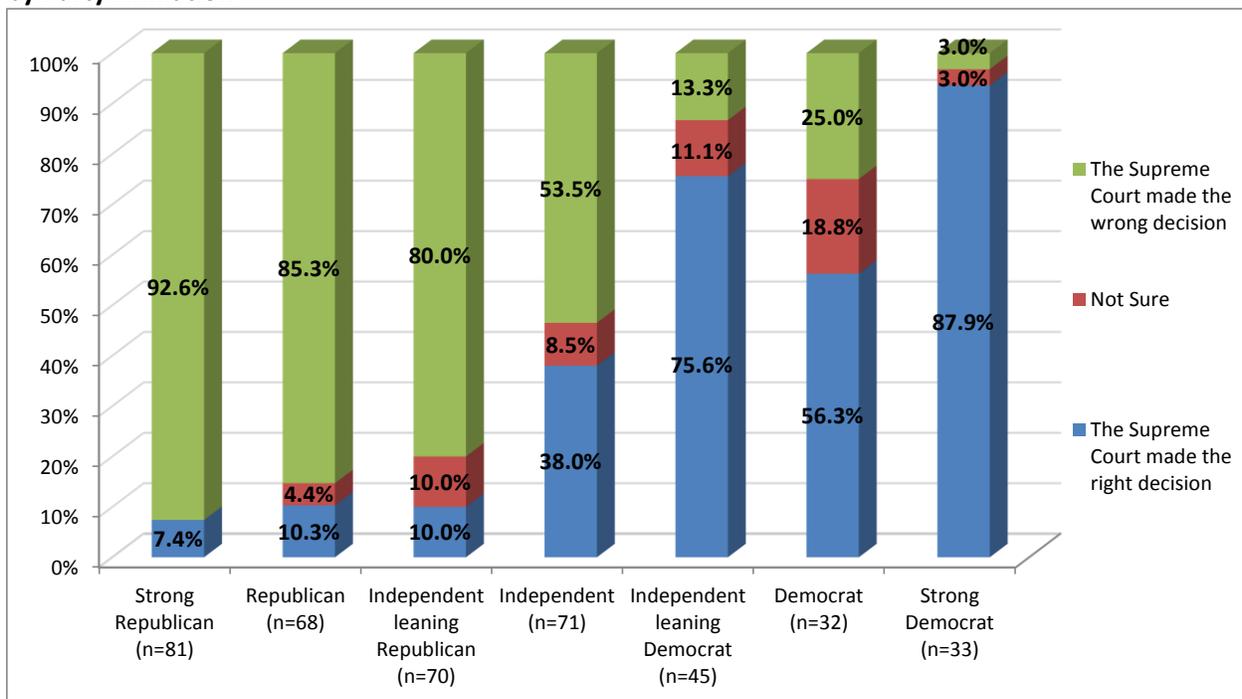
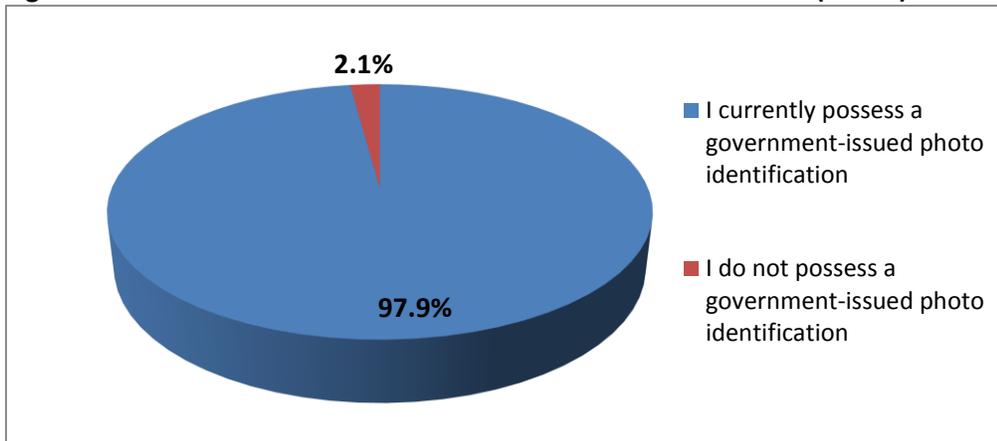


Figure 90: Opinion on the Supreme Court’s Decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by Party Affiliation



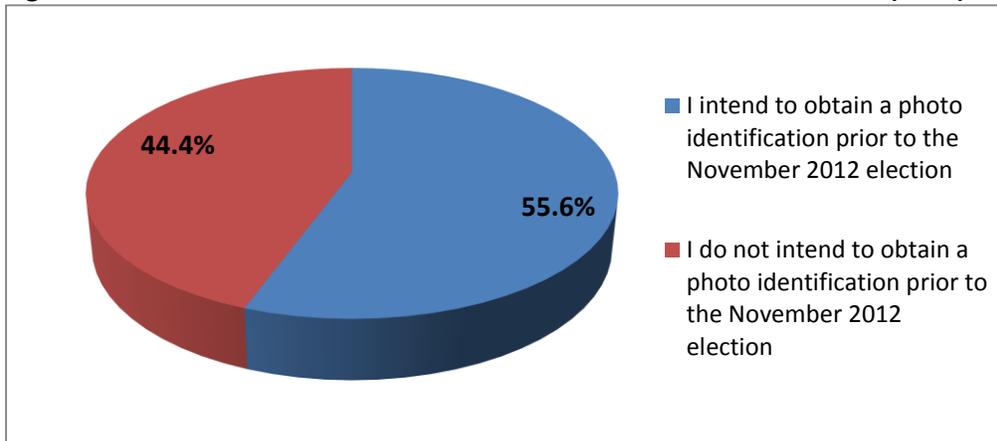
Kansas passed its voter ID law in 2011, which required people to show a passport or a birth certification when they register to vote and present a photo ID at the polls, although the voter registration requirement will not apply to the 2012 election. The survey asked if the respondent currently had a government-issued photo identification. Figure 91 shows that 97.9% of respondents currently had a government-issued photo identification. The survey continued asking those who did not have a photo identification if they intended to obtain one prior to the November 2012 election. More than half (55.6%) of respondents said they intended to obtain one (Figure 92). Respondents who were 65 years old and older were much less likely to have a government-issued photo identification than those who were younger than 65 years (Figure 93). Respondents who did not vote in 2010 were less likely to have such identification than those who voted (Figure 94). African American and those who consider themselves as being in “other” racial group were also less likely to have such identification than other racial groups (Figure 95).

Figure 91: Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification (n=878)



Question: *Do you currently possess a government-issued photo identification (for example, driver's license, passport, state identification card)?*

Figure 92: Intension to Obtain a Government-issued Photo Identification (n=18)



Question: *Do you intend to obtain a photo identification prior to the November 2012 election?*

Figure 93: Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Age

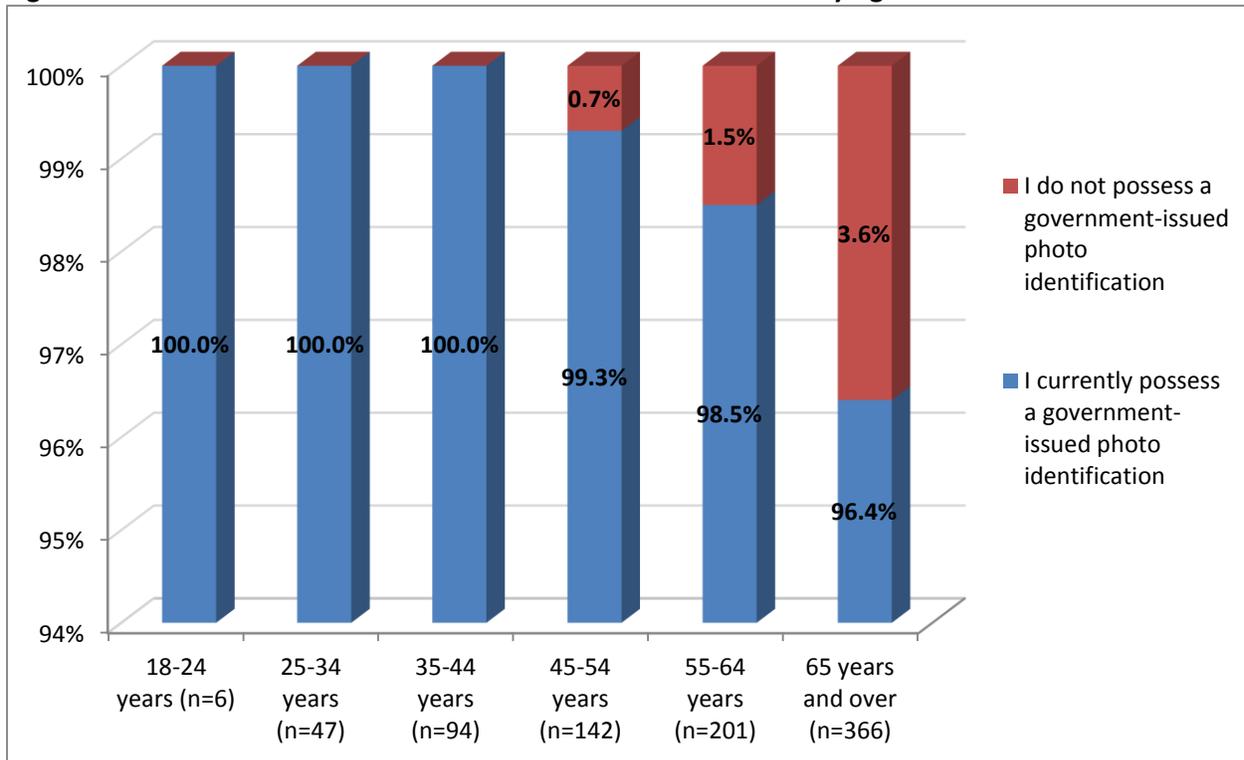


Figure 94: Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Education

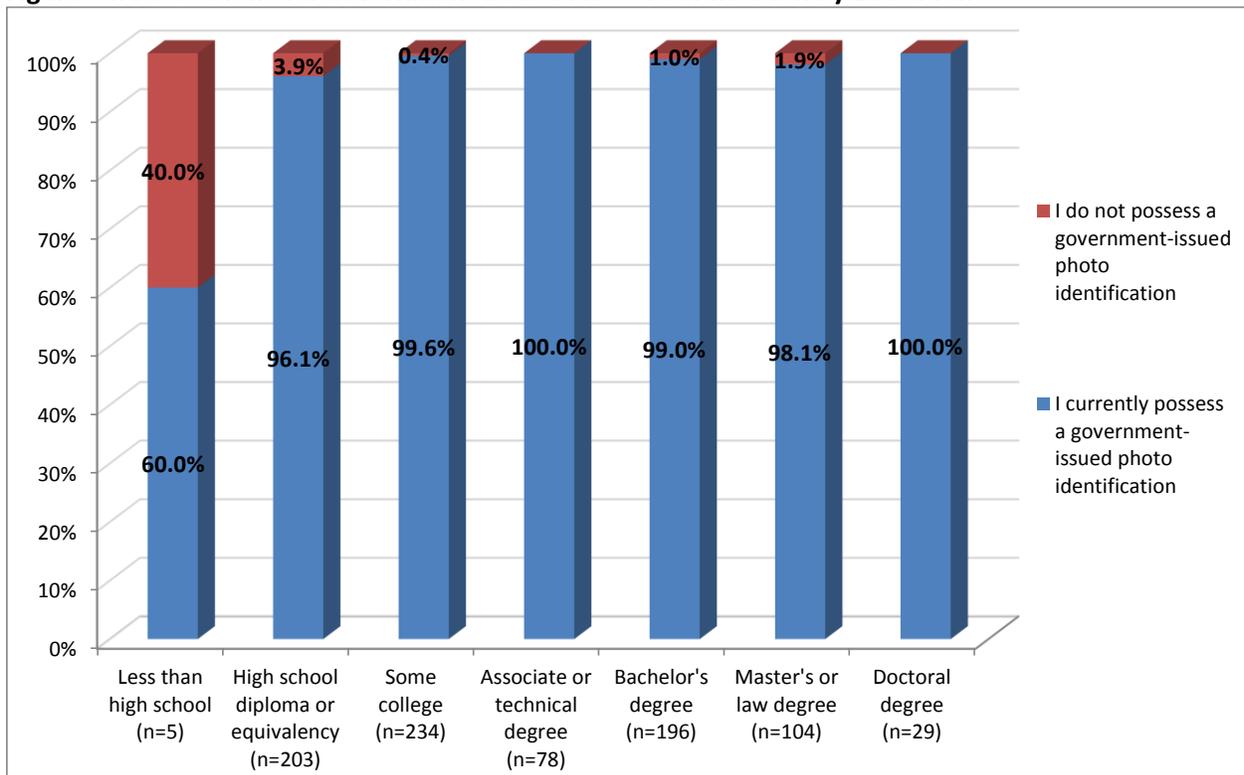


Figure 95: Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Race

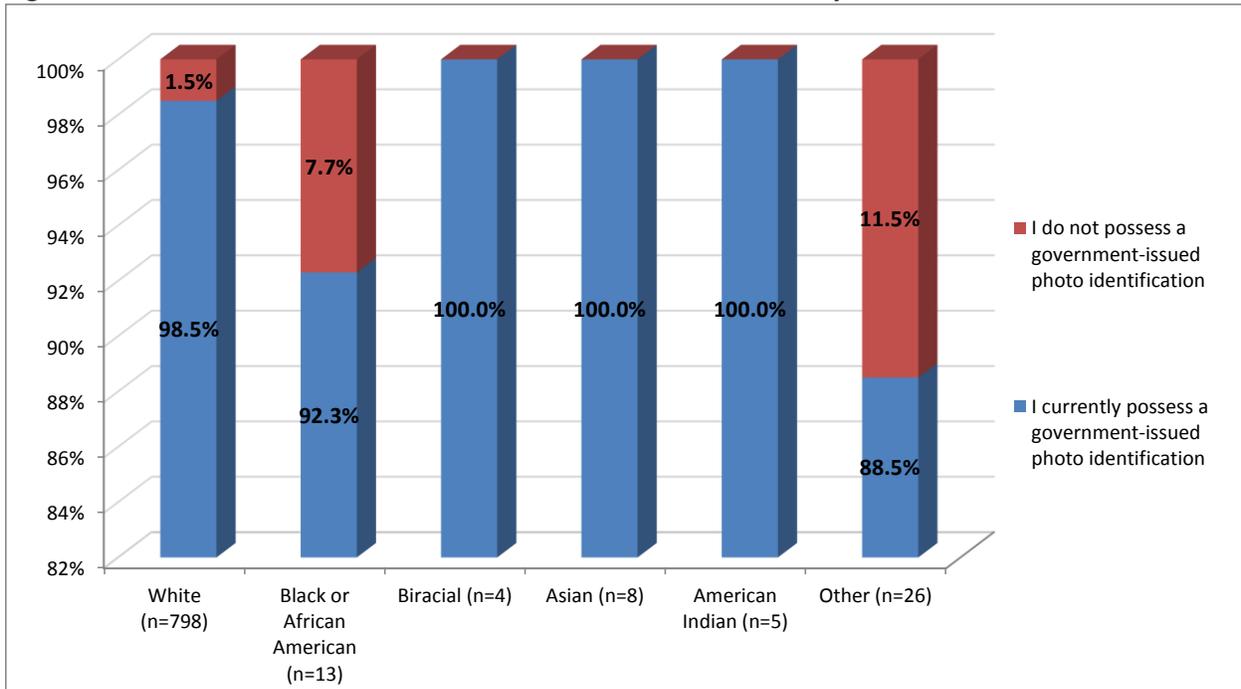
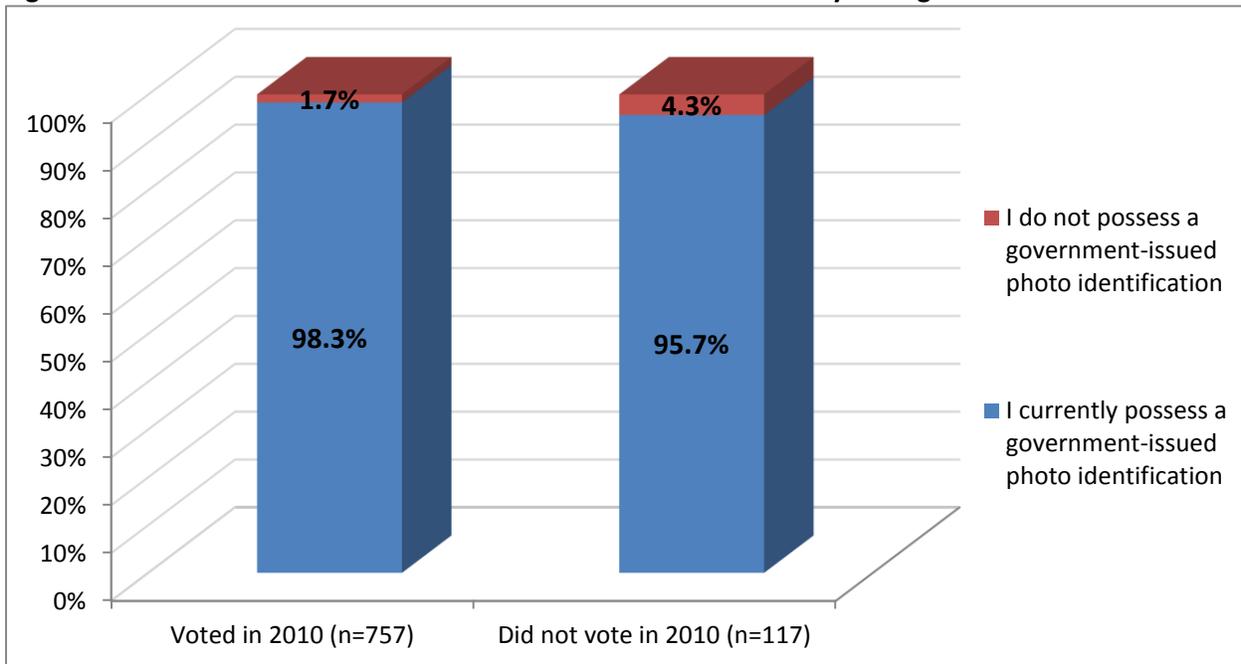
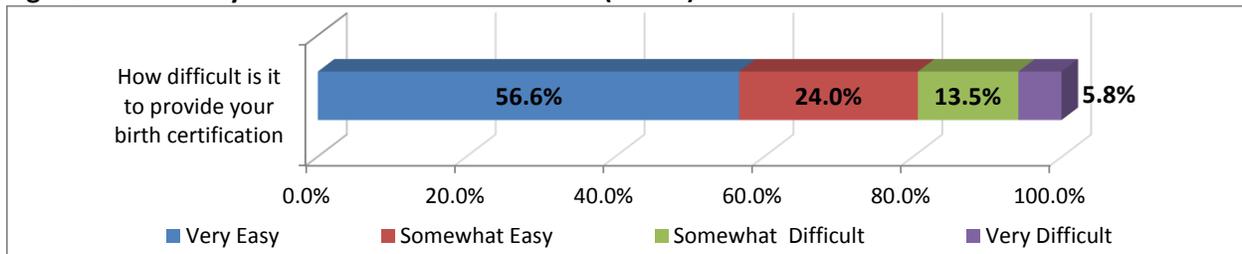


Figure 96: Possession of a Government-issued Photo Identification by Voting Behavior



Respondents were also asked how difficult it would be if they were asked to provide their birth certificate. Almost twenty percent (19.3%) of respondents indicated that it would be “somewhat” or “very difficult” for them to provide their birth certificate (Figure 97). In general, respondents with higher family income were less likely to feel it was “somewhat difficult” or “very difficult” to provide their birth certificate (Figure 98). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to feel it would be “somewhat difficult” or “very difficult” to provide their birth certificate than those respondents who were Republican, independent leaning Republican, and independent (Figure 99).

Figure 97: Difficulty to Provide Birth Certification (n=874)

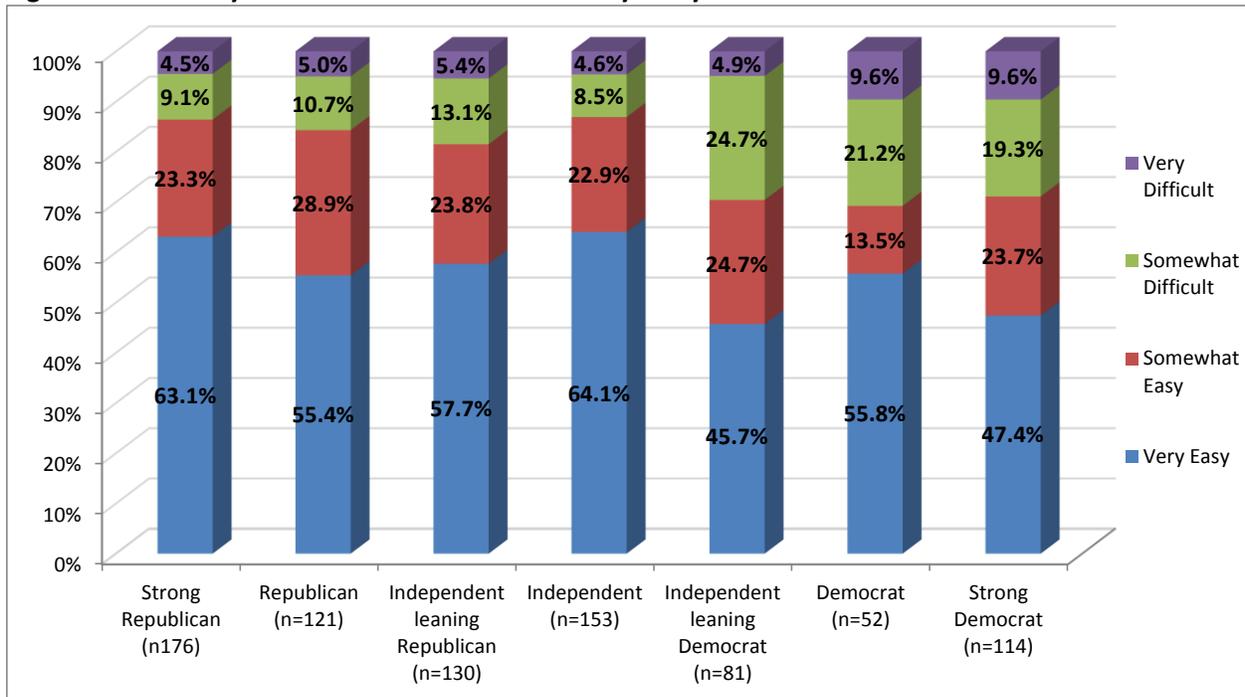


Question: *If you were asked to provide your birth certification right now, would it be very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?*

Figure 98: Difficulty to Provide Birth Certification by Income



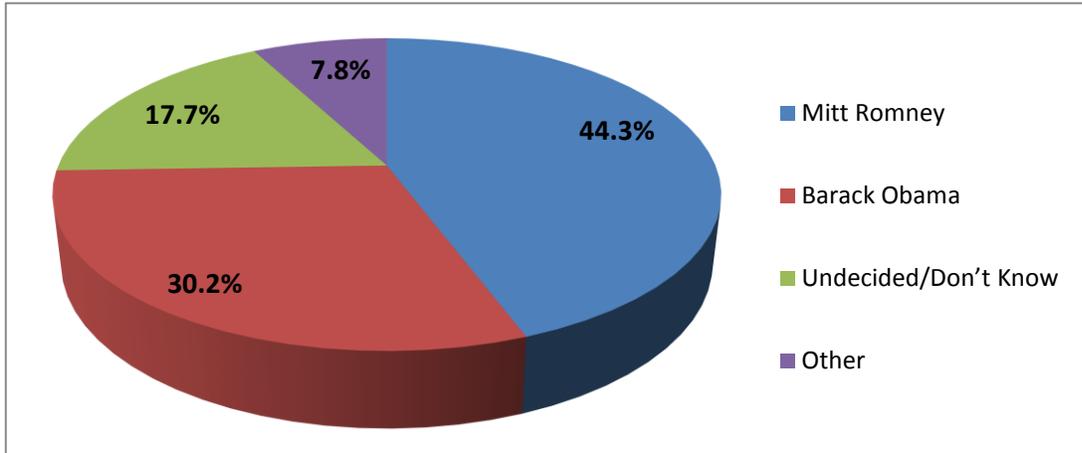
Figure 99: Difficulty to Provide Birth Certification by Party Affiliation



Section 7: Presidential Election

The survey asked respondents who they would vote for if the 2012 Presidential Election had been held on the day they were surveyed. Respondents were most likely (44.3%) to indicate that they would vote for Mitt Romney. Less than a third (30.2%) said they would vote for Barack Obama (Figure 100). Male respondents were more likely to vote for Mitt Romney, while female respondents were more likely to vote for Barack Obama (Figure 101). Except for those respondents whose family income was \$150,000 or more in 2011, respondents with higher family income were more likely to vote for Mitt Romney (Figure 102). Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic were much more likely to vote for Barack Obama than Republican respondents and those leaning Republican. Republican respondents and those leaning Republican were much more likely to vote for Mitt Romney than Democratic respondents and those leaning Democratic. Among independent voters, 31.1% would vote for Mitt Romney and 23% would vote for Barack Obama (Figure 103). Among both those respondents who voted in 2010 and those who did not vote in 2010, people were more likely to vote for Mitt Romney than Barack Obama. More than a third (34.2%) of those respondents who did not vote in 2010 were “undecided” or did not know who to vote for when they were surveyed, which was much higher than the percentage of undecided respondents who voted in 2010 (Figure 104).

Figure 100: Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election



Question: *If the 2012 Presidential Election were held today, who would you vote for?*

Figure 101: Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Gender

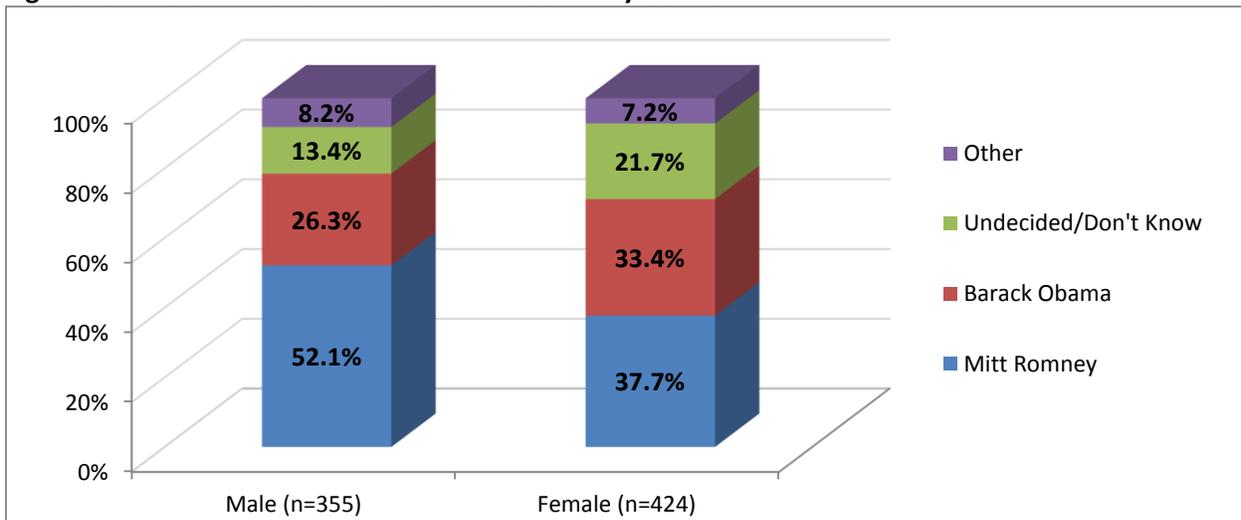


Figure 102: Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Income

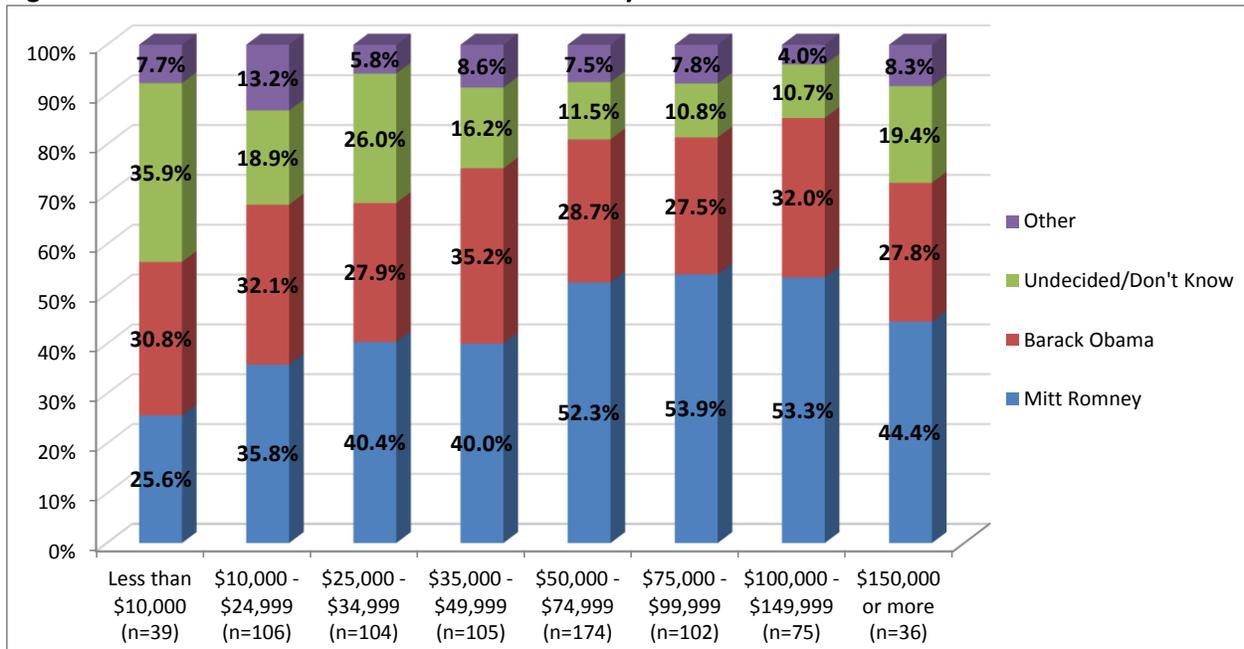


Figure 103: Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Party Affiliation

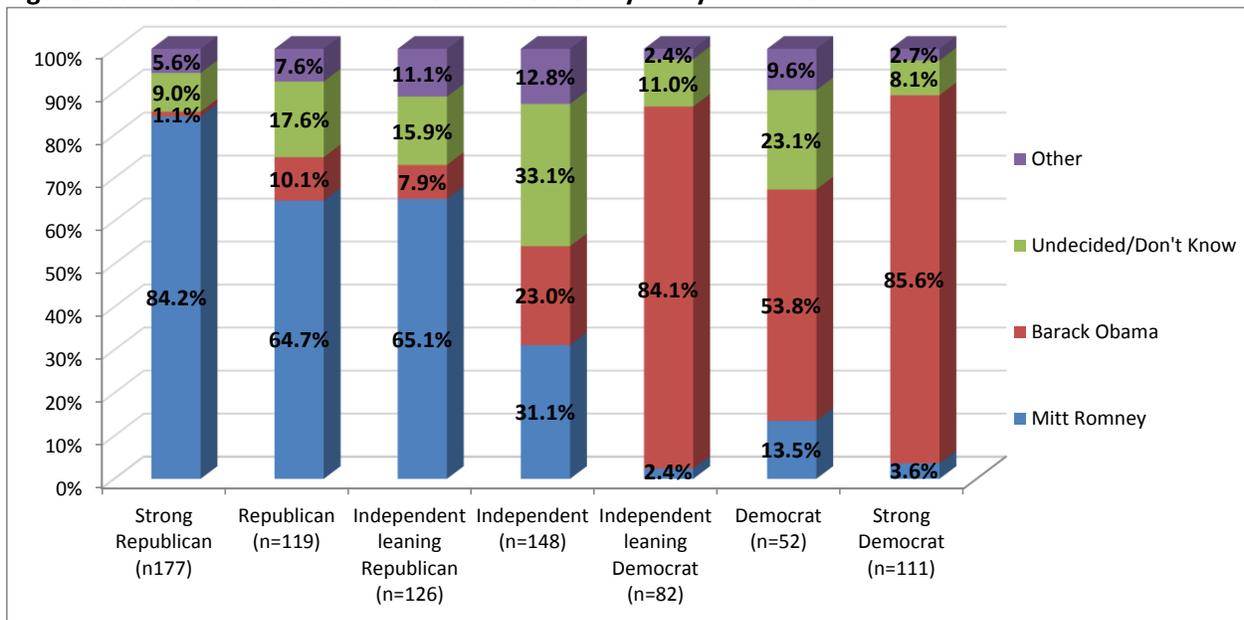
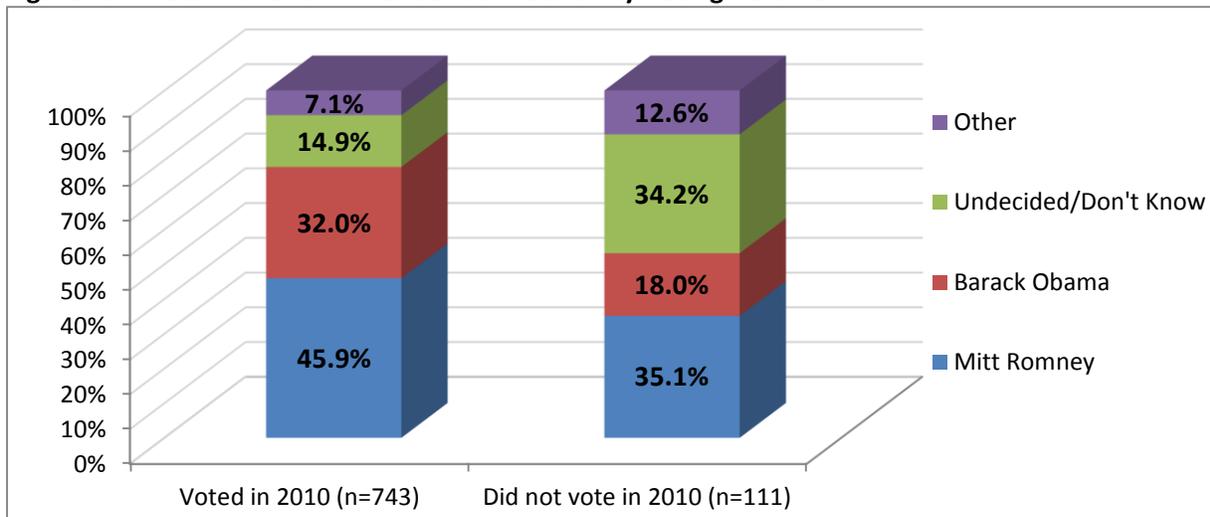


Figure 104: Vote in the 2012 Presidential Election by Voting Behavior

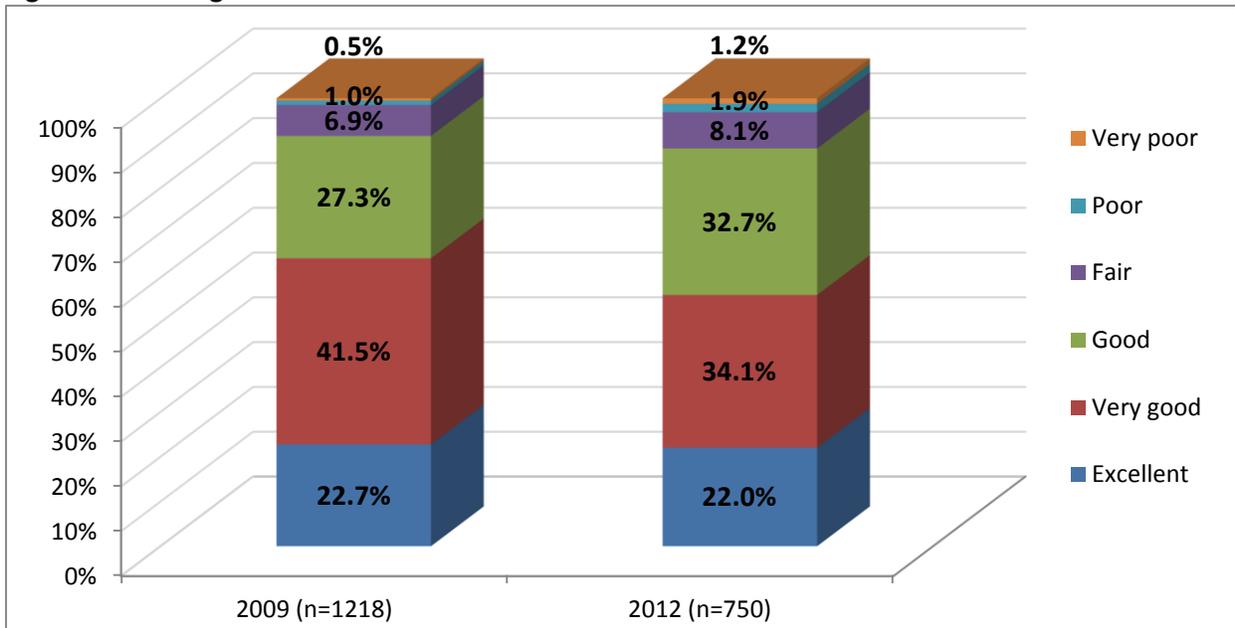


Section 8: Changes from 2009 to 2012

Kansas Speaks has asked a set of questions every year since 2009. Respondents' answers in 2012 to 11 of those questions were significantly different from those in 2009. This section presents those significant differences.

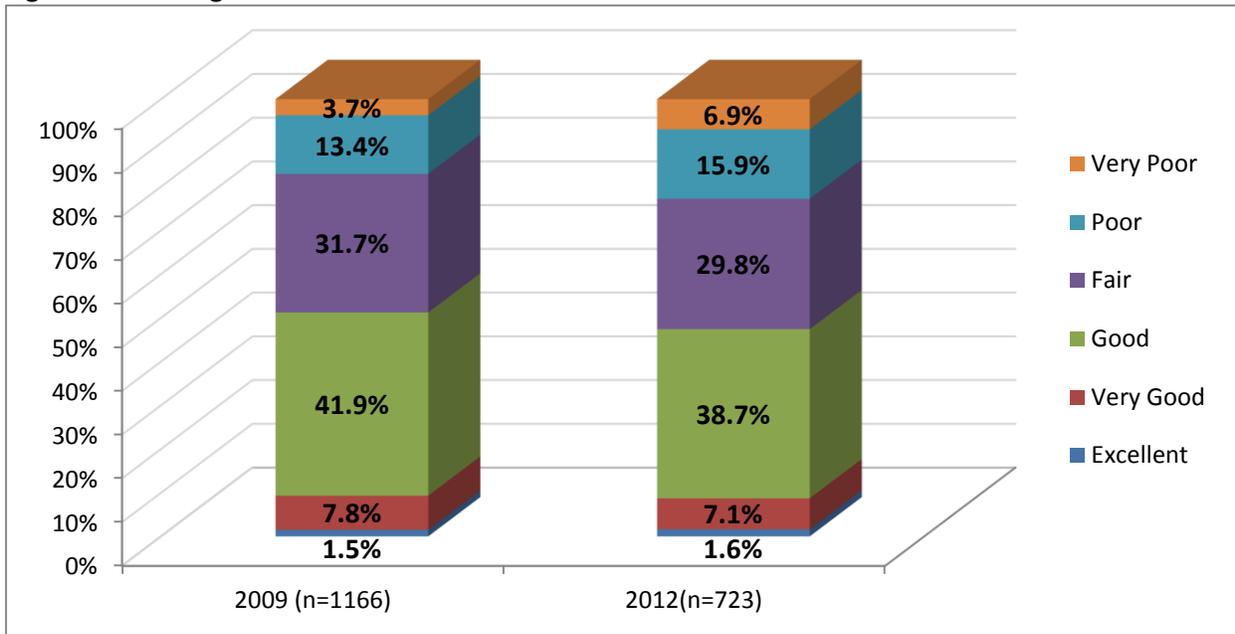
Respondents' ratings of Kansas as a place to live and the Kansas state government in 2012 declined as compared with 2009. In 2009, 64.2% of respondents rated Kansas as an "excellent" or "very good" place to live in. However, the percentage dropped to 53.1% in 2012. The percentage of respondents who felt Kansas was a "poor" or "very poor" place to live in was 1.5% in 2009, increasing to 3.1% in 2012 (Figure 105). When rating the Kansas state government, 51.2% of respondents thought the Kansas state government was at least "good" and 17.1% thought it was "poor" or "very poor" in 2009. In 2012, 47.4% of respondents thought the Kansas state government was at least "good" and 22.8% rated it as "poor" or "very poor" (Figure 106).

Figure 105: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live: 2009-2012



Question: How would you rate Kansas as a place to live?

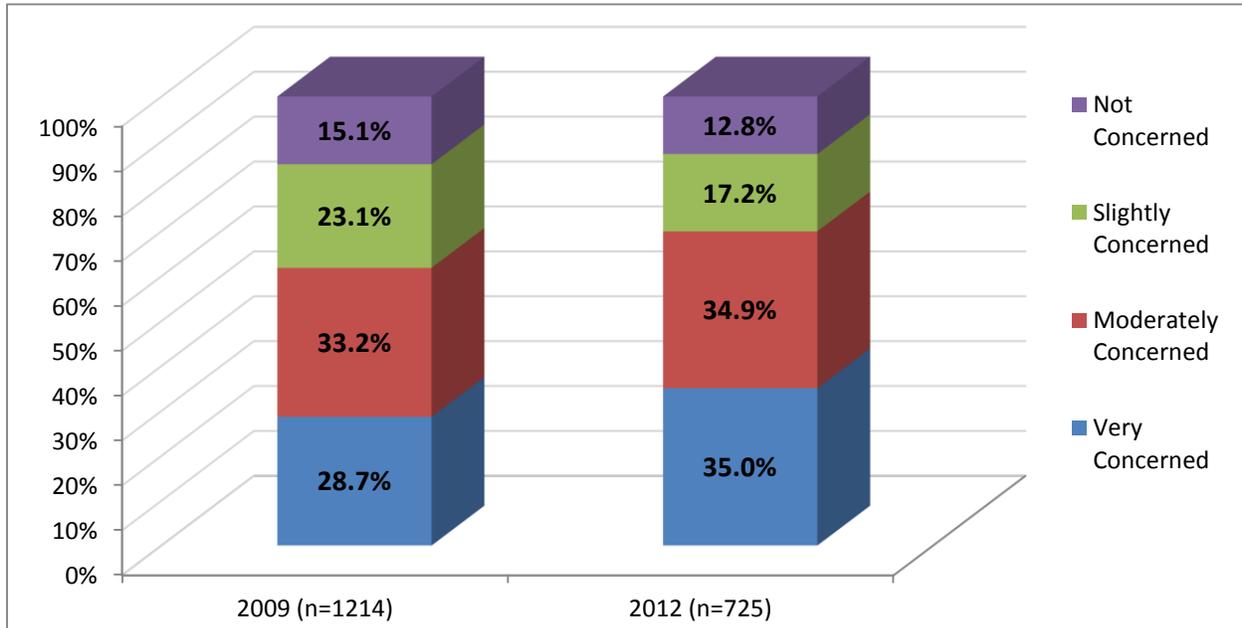
Figure 106: Rating of Kansas State Government: 2009-2012



Question: How would you rate the Kansas state government?

Compared with 2009, respondents became more concerned in 2012 that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten their or their families' welfare in the coming year. In 2012, 35% of respondents answered "very concerned" and 34.9% answered "moderately concerned." In 2009, the percentages were 28.7% and 33.2% respectively (Figure 107).

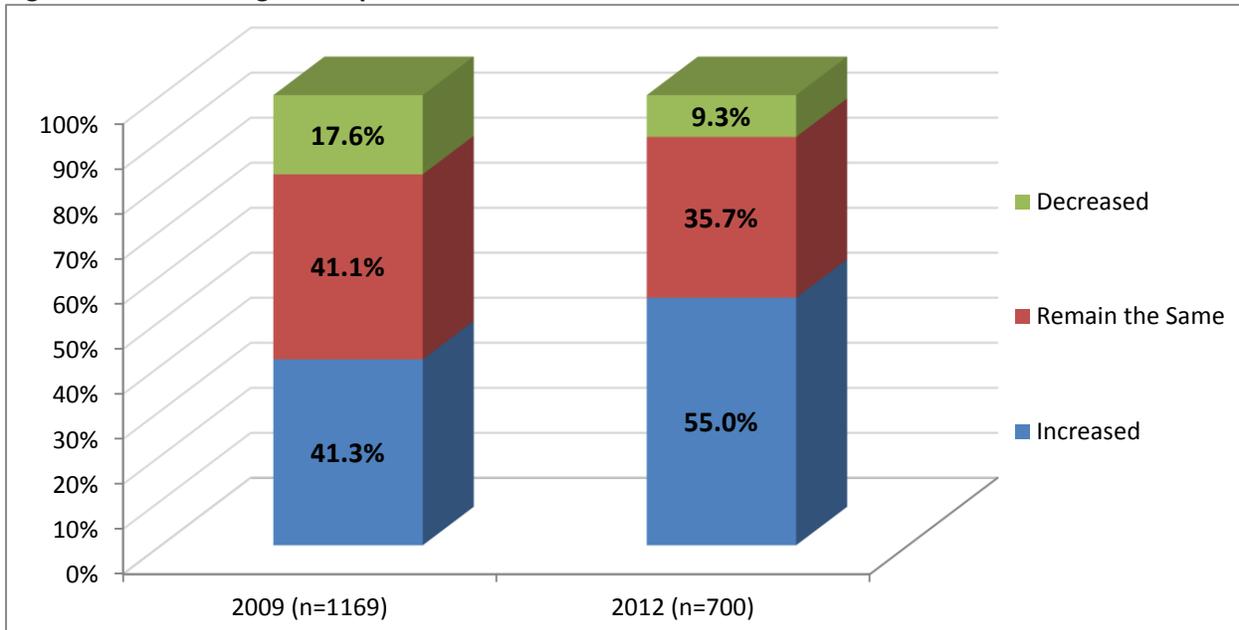
Figure 107: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare: 2009-2012



Question: How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's welfare in the coming year?

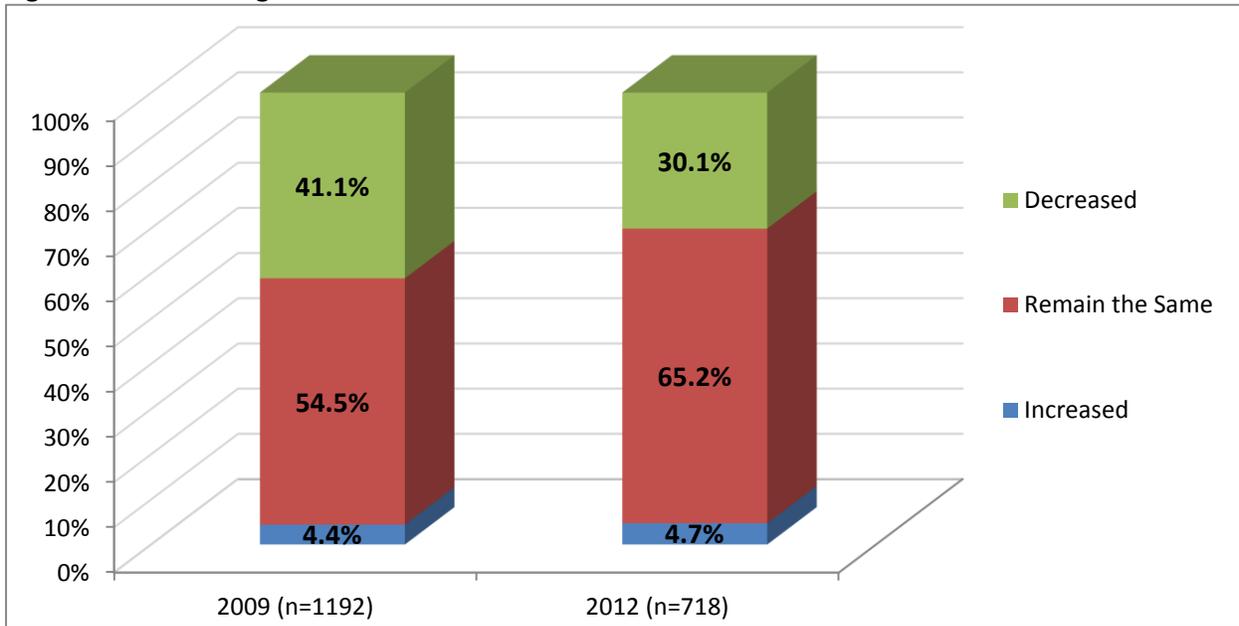
Respondents' opinions of tax changes on top income earners, middle class, and large corporations in 2012 were significantly different from those in 2009. In 2012, 55% of respondents felt that the tax on top income earners should be "increased," which was 13.7% higher than 2009 (Figure 108). The percentage of respondents who supported decreased taxes on the middle class dropped from 41.1% in 2009 to 30.1% in 2012. The percentage of respondents who felt the taxes on the middle class should "remain the same" increased by 10.7% from 2009 to 2012 (Figure 109). In 2009, 51.9% of respondents thought the taxes on large corporations should be "increased." In 2012, 58.3% of respondents thought corporate taxes should be "increased" (Figure 110).

Figure 108: Tax Change on Top Income Earners: 2009-2012



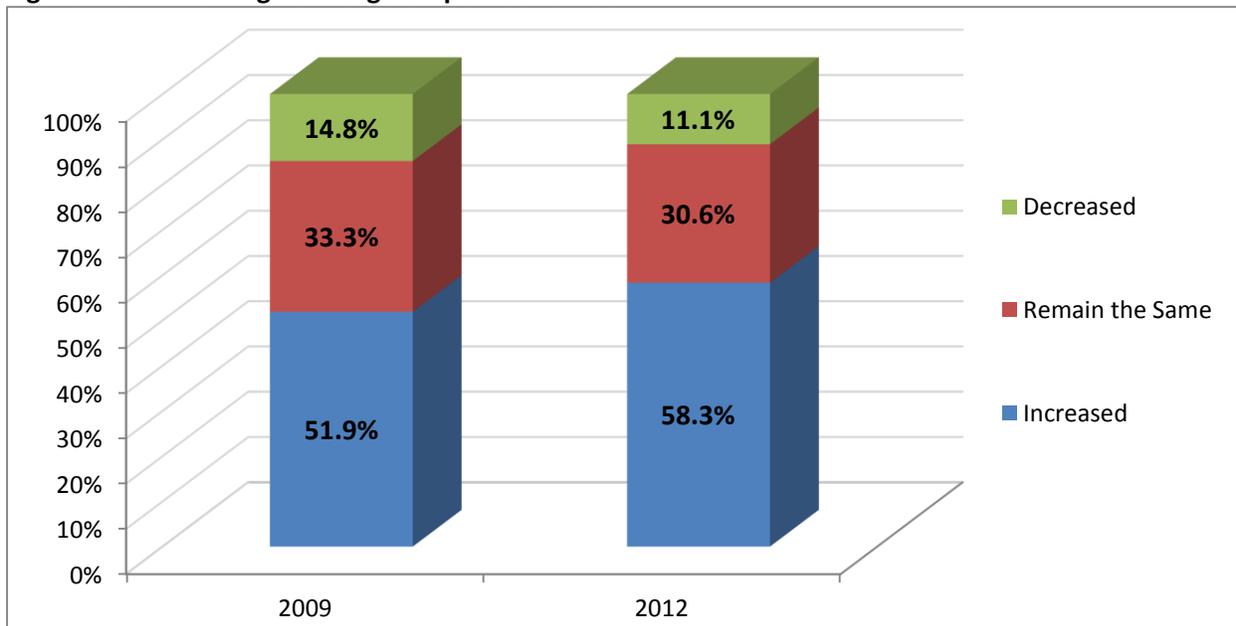
Question: *Please tell us whether you think tax on the top income earners should increase, remain the same, or decrease.*

Figure 109: Tax Change on Middle Class: 2009-2012



Question: *Please tell us whether you think tax on the top middle class should increase, remain the same, or decrease.*

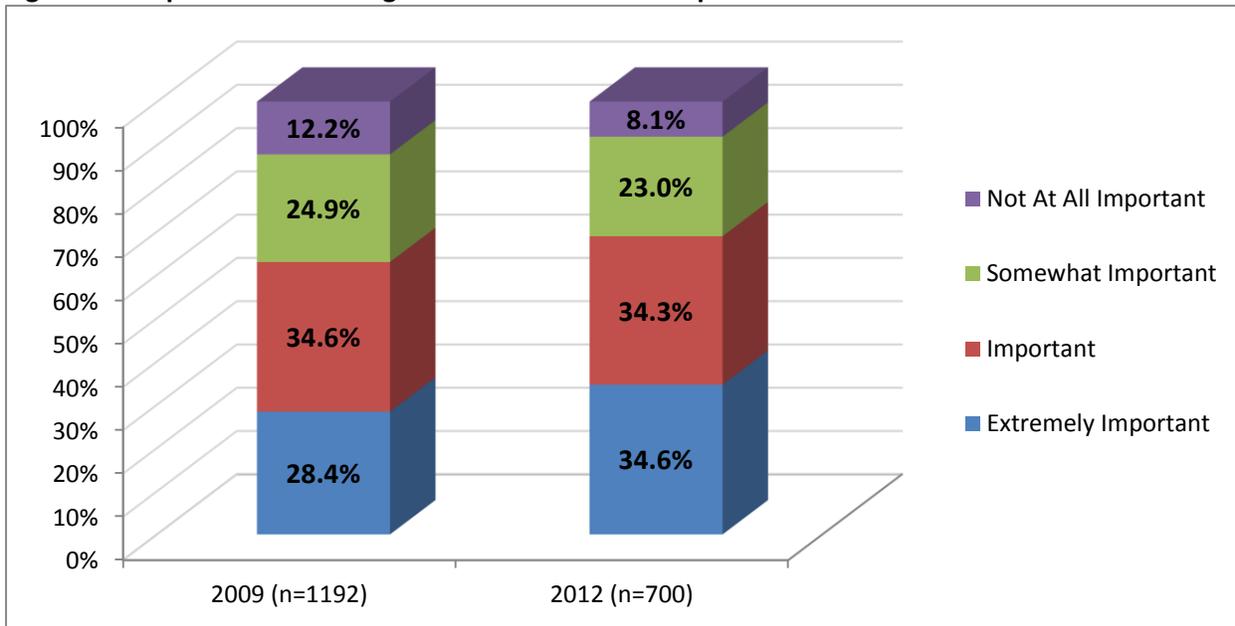
Figure 110: Tax Change on Large Corporations: 2009-2012



Question: *Please tell us whether you think tax on the top large corporation should increase, remain the same, or decrease.*

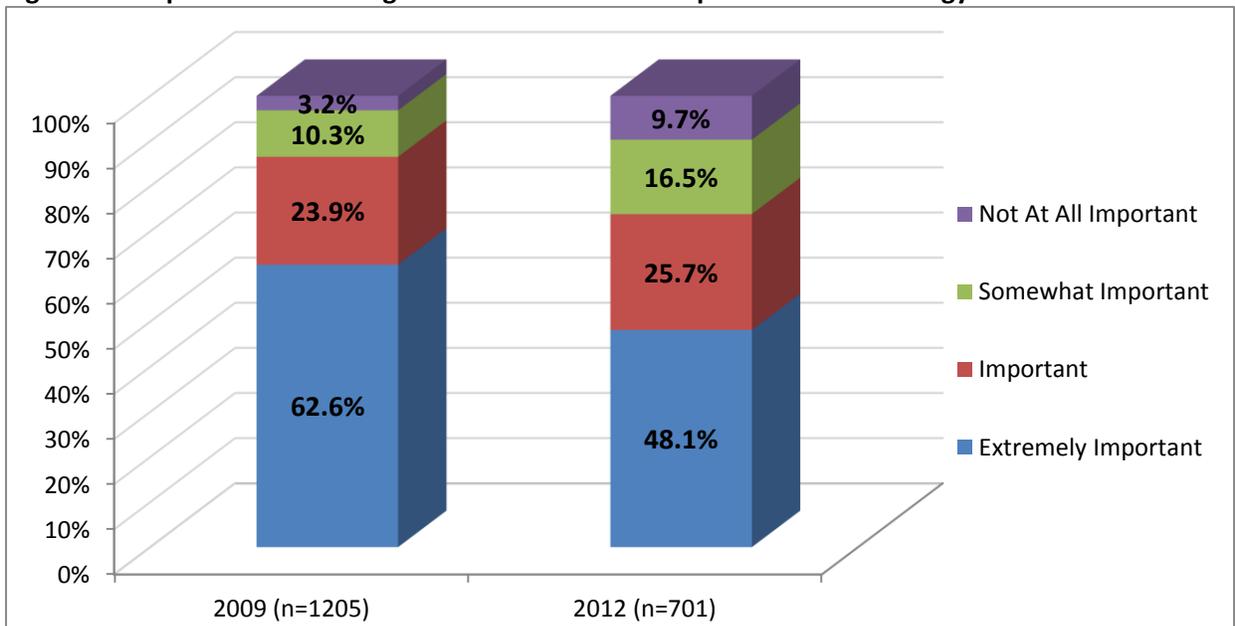
Respondents' opinions on devoting resources to energy sources in 2012 also differed significantly from 2009. The percentage of respondents who supported the development of oil increased from 2009 to 2012. In 2012, 34.6% of respondents felt it was "extremely important" for Kansas to devote resources to the development of oil, increasing from 28.4% in 2009 (Figure 111). Respondent's support of wind energy and nuclear energy declined from 2009 to 2012. In 2009, 62.6% of respondents felt it was "extremely important" to devote resources to the development of wind energy and only 3.2% felt it was "not at all important." In 2012, 48.1% of respondents felt it was "extremely important" to develop wind energy, and the percentage of respondents who felt it was "not at all important" rose to 9.7% (Figure 112). In 2009, 51.2% of respondents felt it was "extremely important" or "important" to devote resources to the development of nuclear energy. In 2012, 35% of respondents felt so. In four years, the percentage of respondents who felt it was "not at all important" to devote resources to the development of nuclear energy increased from 20.7% to 33.1% (Figure 113).

Figure 111: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil: 2009-2012



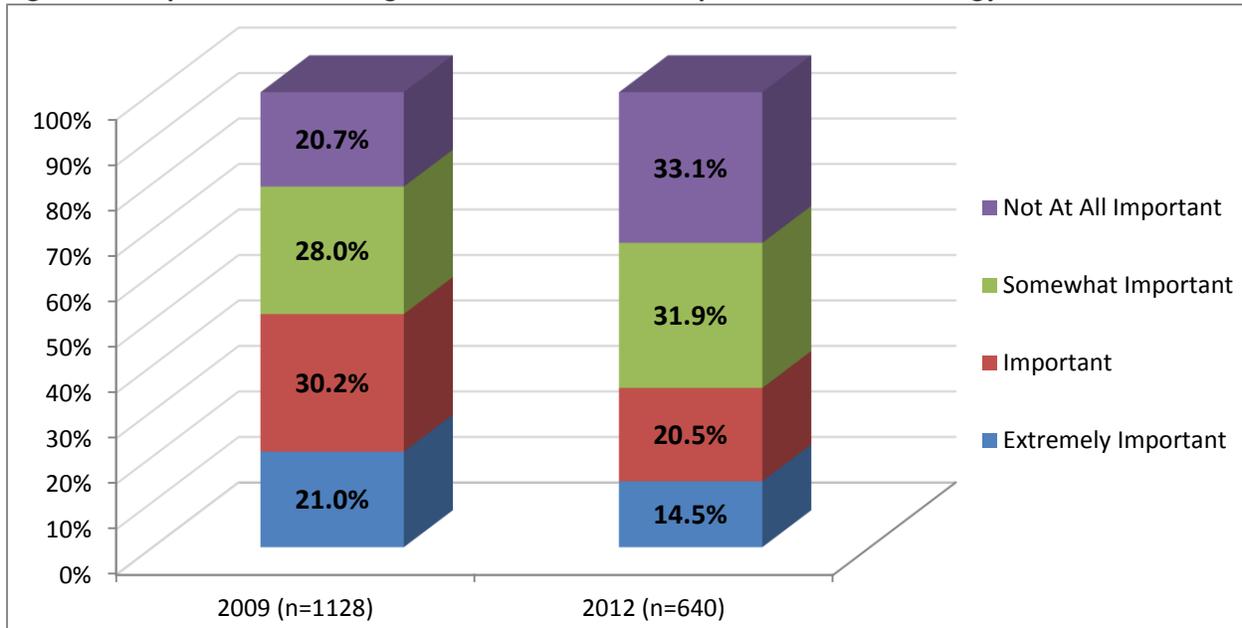
Question: *How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to the development of oil?*

Figure 112: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind Energy: 2009-2012



Question: *How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to the development of wind energy?*

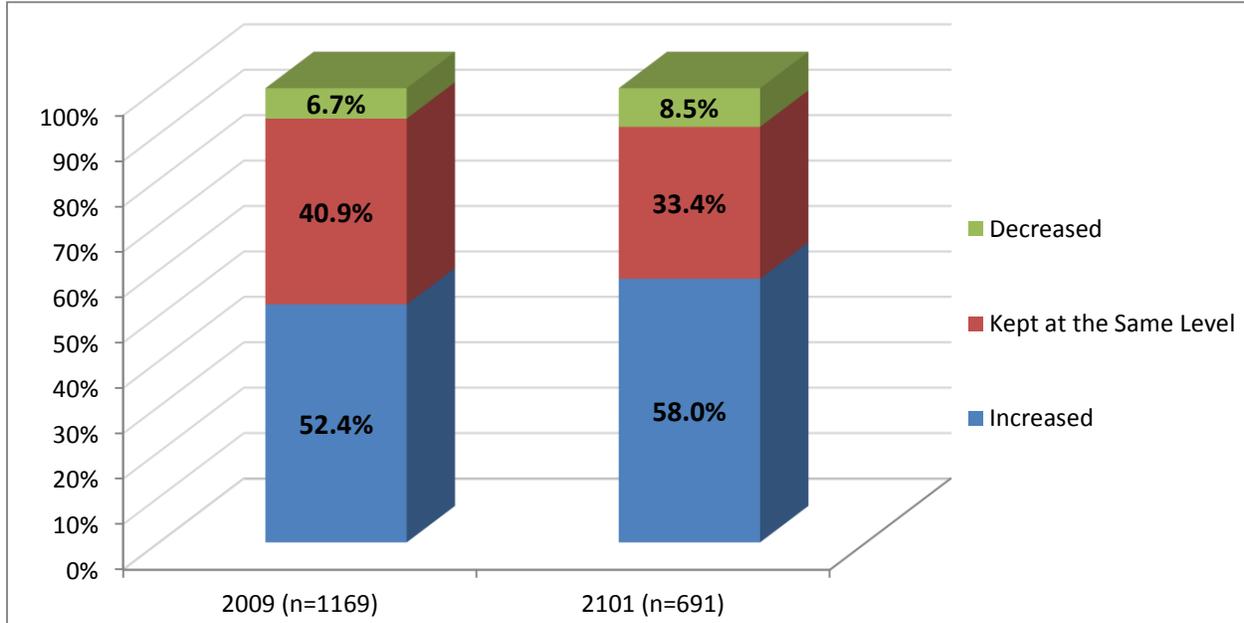
Figure 113: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Nuclear Energy: 2009-2012



Question: *How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to the development of nuclear energy?*

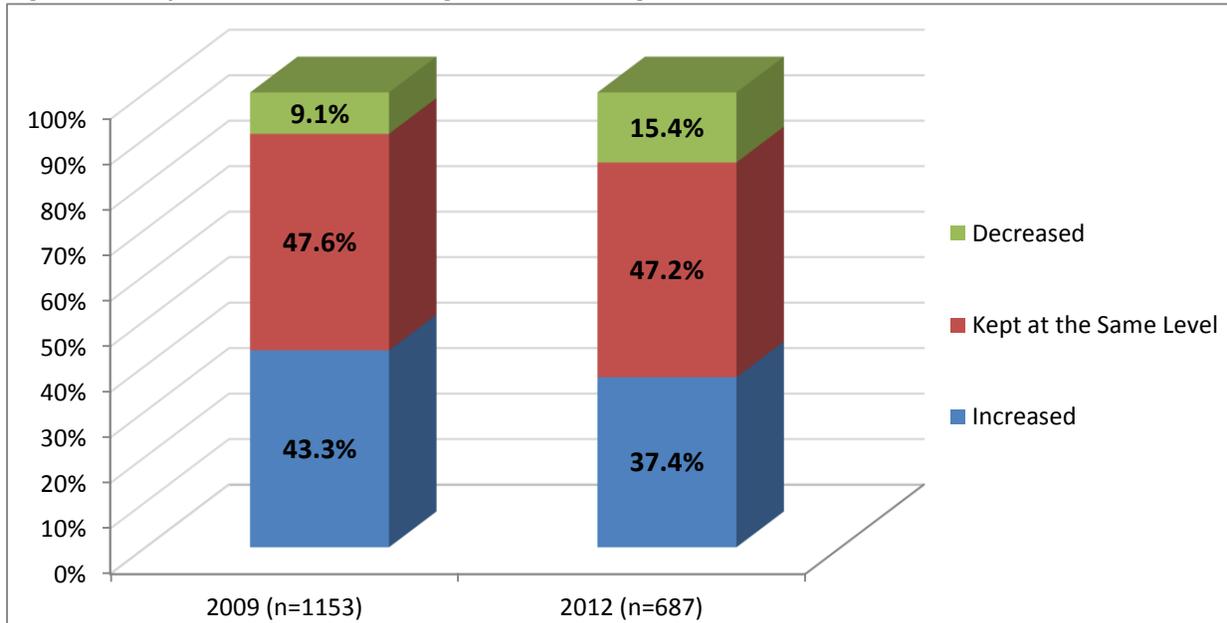
Respondents' opinions on state funding for K-12 and higher education also changed significantly from 2009 to 2012. The percentage of respondents who supported increased state funding for grades kindergarten through high school increased from 52.4% to 58% from 2009 to 2012, while the percentage of respondents who support unchanged state funding declined from 40.9% to 33.4% (Figure 114). Support for state funding for state colleges and universities declined between 2009 and 2012. In 2009, 43.3% of respondents said that state funding for state colleges and universities should be increased. In 2012, only 37.4% said so. The percentage of respondents who supported "decreased" funding for colleges and universities increased from 9.1% in 2009 to 15.4% in 2012 (Figure 115).

Figure 114: Opinion on State Funding for Grades Kindergarten through High School: 2009-2012



Question: Think about the current level of state funding for grades kindergarten through high school, would you say that the amount of funding should be increased, kept at the same level, or decreased?

Figure 115: Opinion on State Funding for State Colleges and Universities: 2009-2012



Question: Think about the current level of state funding for state colleges and universities, would you say that the amount of funding should be increased, kept at the same level, or decreased?

Appendix A: Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Social Indicators		Sample	Study Population*
Gender	Male	(n=870) 45.1%	49.6%
	Female	54.9%	50.4%
Hispanic Origin		(n=767) 0.8%	10.5%
Race	White	(n=861) 93.5%	83.8%
	Black or African American	1.5%	5.9%
	Biracial	0.5%	3.0%
	Asian	0.9%	2.4%
	American Indian	0.6%	1.0%
	Other	3.0%	3.9%
Household Income	Less than \$10,000	(n=761) 5.4%	7.0%
	\$10,000-\$24,999	14.8%	17.6%
	\$25,000- \$34,999	13.8%	11.5%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	14.1%	15.5%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	23.4%	19.9%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	13.7%	12.0%
	\$100,000-\$149,999	10.0%	10.8%
\$150,000 or more	4.9%	5.8%	
Education	Less Than High School	(n=857) 0.7%	10.8%
	High School Diploma	23.9%	27.8%
	Some College	27.4%	24.2%
	Associates or Technical Degree	9.2%	7.4%
	Bachelor's Degree	23.1%	19.3%
	Masters, Law Degree, or Doctoral Degree	15.7%	10.5%
Age	18-24 Years Old	(n=865) 0.7%	13.6%
	25-34 Years Old	5.5%	17.8%
	35-44 Years Old	11.0%	16.3%
	45-54 Years Old	16.6%	19.1%
	55-64 Years Old	23.2%	15.6%
	65 Years and Older	42.9%	17.7%

Appendix A (cont.): Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Social Indicators		Sample	Study Population*
Political Party Affiliation		(n=838)	
	Strong Republican	21.2%	n/a
	Republican	14.6%	n/a
	Independent Leaning Republican	15.8%	n/a
	Independent	18.5%	n/a
	Independent Leaning Democrat	10.0%	n/a
	Democrat	6.2%	n/a
Strong Democrat	13.7%	n/a	
Years Living in Kansas		(n=863)	
	1 to 20 Years	14.9%	n/a
	21 to 40 Years	25.1%	n/a
	41 to 60 Years	30.1%	n/a
More Than 60 Years	29.8%	n/a	
Participation in 2010 Election		(n=877)	
	Voted	86.5%	n/a
Did Not Vote	13.5%	n/a	
Registered to Vote		(n=118)	
	Yes	54.2%	n/a
No	45.8%	n/a	

* Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix B: Mail Survey Questionnaire



KANSAS SPEAKS

When Kansas speaks, Kansas listens.

For the following questions, please circle the number corresponding to your answer. Skip any question for which you have no opinion or response.

Q1. In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live, the Kansas economy, and the Kansas state government?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live, Kansas is	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Kansas economy is	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Kansas state government is	1	2	3	4	5	6

Q2. How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the Kansas legislature and Governor Brownback?

	Very Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Neutral	Moderately Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Overall performance of the Kansas legislature	1	2	3	4	5
Overall performance of Governor Brownback	1	2	3	4	5

Q3. How satisfied are you with Governor Brownback's and state party leaders' efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy?

	Very Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Neutral	Moderately Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Governor Brownback's efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy	1	2	3	4	5
Kansas Democratic Party leaders' ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy	1	2	3	4	5
Kansas Republican Party leaders' ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy	1	2	3	4	5

Q4. How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's welfare in the coming year?

Very Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Slightly Concerned	Not Concerned
1	2	3	4

Q5. Do you believe that Kansas government spending should be increased, remain the same, or decreased?

Increased	Remain the Same	Decreased
1	2	3

Q6. Kansas has three primary revenue sources: income tax, sales tax, and property tax. Thinking of the current Kansas economy, do you believe that each of the following taxes should be significantly increased, somewhat increased, remain the same, somewhat decreased, or significantly decreased?

	Significantly Increased	Somewhat Increased	Remain the Same	Somewhat Decreased	Significantly Decreased
Income tax	1	2	3	4	5
Sales tax	1	2	3	4	5
Property tax	1	2	3	4	5

Q7. Tax increases and reductions can be targeted at different people or businesses. Please tell us whether you think taxes on the following groups should increase, remained the same, or decrease.

	Increase	Remain the Same	Decrease
Taxes on the top income earners	1	2	3
Taxes on the middle class	1	2	3
Taxes on large corporations	1	2	3
Taxes on small businesses (less than 500 employees)	1	2	3

Q8. In June 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision on the legality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (commonly known as Obama Care). Do you believe the Supreme Court made the right decision?

Yes	No	Not Sure
1	2	3

Q9. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to the development of the following energy sources?

	Extremely Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not At All Important
Coal	1	2	3	4
Oil	1	2	3	4
Wind	1	2	3	4
Nuclear	1	2	3	4

Q10. Thinking about the current level of state funding for the following items, would you say that the amount of funding should be increased, kept at the same level, or decreased?

	Increased	Kept at the same level	Decreased
Current level of state education funding for grades kindergarten through high school	1	2	3
Current level of state education funding for state colleges and universities	1	2	3
Current level of state funding for social services, such as senior and disability services	1	2	3

Q11. Do you currently possess a government-issued photo identification (for example, driver's license, passport, state identification card)?

Yes, go to Q12

No, go to question Q11a



<p>Q11a. Do you intend to obtain a photo identification prior to the November 2012 election?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Q12. If you were asked to provide your birth certification right now, would it be very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?

Very Easy	Somewhat Easy	Somewhat Difficult	Very Difficult
1	2	3	4

Q13. If the 2012 Presidential Election were held today, who would you vote for?

Mitt Romney

Barack Obama

Undecided/Don't Know

Other, please write down the name of the person _____

Q14. Do you have landline phone(s) in your household?

Yes

No

Q15. Do you have a cellphone for personal use only?

Yes

No

Q16. How many years have you lived in Kansas? _____ years

Q17. Did you vote in the November 2010 election?

Yes, go to Q18

No, go to question Q17a



<p>Q17a. Are you registered to vote?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Q18. Do you consider yourself a ...

Strong Republican	Republican	Independent Leaning Republican	Independent	Independent Leaning Democrat	Democrat	Strong Democrat	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Q19. What is the highest level of education you have received?

Less than High School	High School Diploma or Equivalency	Some College	Associate or Technical Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Masters or Law Degree	Doctoral Degree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Q20. Are you of Mexican or other Hispanic origin?

Yes No

Q21. Do you consider yourself:

White	Black or African American	Biracial	Asian	American Indian	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q22. What year were you born? _____

Q23. What is your gender?

Male Female

Q24. What was your total family income for the last year?

Less than \$10,000	Between \$10,000 and \$24,999	Between \$25,000 and \$34,999	Between \$35,000 and \$49,999	Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	Between \$100,000 and \$149,999	\$150,000 or more
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

All information will be kept confidential.

Please place this questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided and drop it in a US Post Office mailbox.