

## City of Springfield Phone Poll

**“Hello. The following survey is being conducted for the City of Springfield. To ensure that our results are correct, this poll is meant for those who live within the city limits of Springfield and not one of the surrounding townships.”**

**QUESTION 1:** Do you live within the city limits of Springfield?

- Yes
- No
  - Thank you for your time. End the call.

**QUESTION 2:** Do you believe that the services provided to the residents of the City of Springfield are:

- 10.2% - Very good value for the taxes paid
- 29.6% - Good value for the taxes paid
- 35.9% - OK value for the taxes paid
- 12.7% - Poor value for the taxes paid
- 5.6% - Very poor value for the taxes paid
- 6.0% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 3:** Do you believe that the taxes you pay to support services provided by the City of Springfield are:

- 13.2% - Higher than comparable cities
- 51.4% - About the same as comparable cities
- 14.8% - Lower than comparable cities
- 20.6% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 4:** Would you say that the City of Springfield is in a:

- 2.1% - Very strong financial position
- 8.8% - Strong financial position
- 39.6% - OK financial position
- 25.7% - Weak financial position
- 8.8% - Very weak financial position
- 0.9% - Other (DO NOT READ)
- 14.1% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 5:** How aware are you that since 2013, the City of Springfield has experienced revenue reductions in excess of 5 ½ million dollars per year mostly due to cuts in state funding?

- 25.2% - Very aware
- 24.4% - Somewhat aware
- 49.8% - Not at all aware
- 0.9% - UNSURE (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 6:** How aware are you that the City of Springfield police and fire departments are operating at the minimum staffing levels allowed by the city charter?

- 34.5% - Very aware
- 30.6% - Somewhat aware
- 34.3% - Not at all aware
- 0.7% - UNSURE (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 7:** How would you rate the current QUALITY OF LIFE in Springfield?

- 8.3% - Very good
- 32.4% - Good
- 31.3% - OK
- 19.7% - Poor
- 6.9% - Very poor
- 0.2% - Other (DO NOT READ)
- 1.2% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**Read Statement:** The city's cash reserves "rainy day fund" are established to assist in covering operating expenses in difficult financial times.

**QUESTION 8:** How aware are you that each year since 2012 the city has operated at a deficit, using cash reserves just to maintain current city services?

- 18.5% - Very aware
- 29.9% - Somewhat aware
- 50.9% - Not at all aware
- 0.7% - UNSURE (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 9:** How aware are you that without additional revenue, the city's cash reserves will be depleted in 2017 and the city will be forced to reduce services?

- 15.3% - Very aware
- 22.5% - Somewhat aware
- 61.1% - Not at all aware
- 1.2% - UNSURE (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 10:** Are you aware that the City of Springfield, in order to maintain present service levels, is considering placing a TAX INCREASE ISSUE before the residents?

- 37.3% - Yes
- 61.1% - No
- 1.6% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 11:** If asked today, would you support a POINT THREE NINE PERCENT EARNED INCOME tax, which would cost someone EARNING \$30,000 per year \$9.75 per month?

- 45.1% - Yes
- 41.7% - No
- 13.2% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

*Read Statement:* The City of Springfield is at a crossroads. A new source of funding is needed in order to maintain the present level of city services. An additional POINT THREE NINE PERCENT EARNED INCOME TAX is required to maintain current service levels. The POINT THREE NINE PERCENT would be used to replace the revenue losses and cuts in state funding. The following questions will address specific services that may be cut or reduced if additional revenue is not obtained.

**QUESTION 12:** Without additional revenue from an earned income tax, the city believes it will be forced to further reduce its police department capability, which is already at minimum staffing levels, by eliminating up to 10 civilian employees. With this staff reduction, officers will be pulled off the street for administrative duties resulting in slower response times. Knowing this, would it make you...

- 15.7% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 35.9% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 22.0% - Neutral
- 10.4% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 8.1% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 4.2% - It does not matter
- 3.7% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 13:** Without additional revenue from an earned income tax, the city believes it will be forced to reduce its police department services by closing the Police Substation on Johnny Lytle (Light-el) Ave., which also serves as a neighborhood community center. Knowing this, would it make you...

- 15.3% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 31.0% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 24.8% - Neutral
- 11.8% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 6.5% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 7.2% - It does not matter
- 3.3% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 14:** Without additional revenue from an earned income tax, the city believes it will be forced to reduce its fire department capability, which is already at minimum staffing levels, by closing Fire Station #5. This reduction in capability would lead to slower response times for both Fire and Emergency Services. Knowing this, would it make you...

- 18.8% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 41.0% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 17.1% - Neutral
- 9.5% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 5.6% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 4.4% - It does not matter
- 3.7% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 15:** Without additional revenue from an earned income tax, the city believes it will be forced to abandon the neighborhood street paving program, which is already paused due to lack of funds. Knowing this, would it make you...

- 20.4% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 32.4% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 21.3% - Neutral
- 13.7% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 7.4% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 3.7% - It does not matter
- 1.2% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 16:** Without additional revenue from an earned income tax, the city will reduce funding to National Trail Parks and Recreation District putting the future of the Splash Zone pool at risk. Knowing this, would it make you...

- 14.4% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 24.5% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 27.5% - Neutral
- 16.4% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 8.1% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 6.9% - It does not matter
- 2.1% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 17:** Without additional revenue from an earned income tax, the city believes it will be forced to cut recreational and housing programs that currently benefit seniors. Knowing this, would it make you...

- 19.7% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 38.2% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 19.9% - Neutral
- 10.2% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 5.8% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 4.4% - It does not matter
- 1.9% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 18:** Over the last 12 years, the City of Springfield has reduced its workforce by 20%, totaling over 135 positions? Knowing this, would it make you...

- 13.4% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 33.8% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 28.9% - Neutral
- 10.9% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 6.5% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 4.6% - It does not matter
- 1.9% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 19:** An Earned Income tax is a tax on just that...earned income. If you knew that those who are retired or currently unemployed would not pay the earned income tax, would it make you...

- 15.3% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 32.4% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 26.6% - Neutral
- 12.7% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 4.9% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 6.7% - It does not matter
- 1.4% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 20:** If you know that passing a POINT THREE NINE PERCENT earned income tax would restore the neighborhood streets paving program and re-establish a special police unit to combat the violent crime and heroin/drug epidemic, would it make you...

- 29.4% - Very supportive of an earned income tax
- 35.9% - Supportive of an earned income tax
- 16.4% - Neutral
- 8.8% - Unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 5.1% - Very unsupportive of an earned income tax
- 1.6% - It does not matter
- 2.8% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 21:** If an earned income tax does not pass, city services will be cut. Which of the following city services is most important to you?

- 46.5% - Fire/EMS
- 40.3% - Police
- 2.3% - Parks and recreation
- 3.2% - Street Paving
- 2.8% - Junk, Trash and Weed enforcement
- 4.9% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 22:** Are you a homeowner?

- 76.9% - Yes
- 22.7% - No
- 0.5% - Prefer not to answer (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 23:** The City of Springfield recognizes that residents can become fatigued by continual renewal efforts. In this light, would you prefer a:

- 41.2% - 5-year earned income tax
- 8.3% - 10-year earned income tax
- 19.2% - Permanent earned income tax
- 15.3% - I won't support any option (DO NOT READ)
- 0.9% - Other (DO NOT READ)
- 15.0% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 24:** Into what age bracket do you fall?

- 1.2% - 18-24
- 4.4% - 25-34
- 9.0% - 35-44
- 21.5% - 45-54
- 21.3% - 55-64
- 41.7% - 65 or older

**QUESTION 25:** Knowing what you now know about the depleting cash reserves and the need to cut city services if new money is not raised, if asked today, to maintain current levels of city services, restore the neighborhood streets program and re-establish a special police unit to combat the violent crime and heroin/drug epidemic, would you support a POINT THREE NINE PERCENT EARNED INCOME TAX, which would cost someone EARNING \$30,000 per year \$9.75 per month?

- 65.7% - Yes
- 25.2% - No
- 9.0% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 26:** In general, do you feel that Springfield is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- 36.2% - Right Direction
- 47.6% - Wrong Direction
- 16.2% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 27:** How many years have you lived in Springfield?

- 0.5% - Less than one year
- 2.3% - One to five years
- 3.2% - Six to ten years
- 9.0% - Ten to twenty years
- 84.9% - More than twenty years
- 0.0% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 28:** Where do you presently receive most of your information about the City of Springfield?

- 6.3% - Printed newsletter
- 7.4% - Website
- 3.5% - Facebook
- 0.5% - Email
- 3.9% - Radio
- 57.8% - Newspaper
- 15.1% - Word of mouth
- 5.6% - Unsure (DO NOT READ)

**QUESTION 29:** Are you currently employed?

- 36.2% - Yes
- 63.8% - No

**QUESTION 30:** If yes, are you currently employed in the City of Springfield? (**Subset**)

- 54.6% - Yes
- 37.4% - No

**QUESTION 31:** Caller to identify male or female

- 46.3% - Male
- 53.7% - Female

**Thank you for your time.**