



# POLITY WATCH: Campaign '96

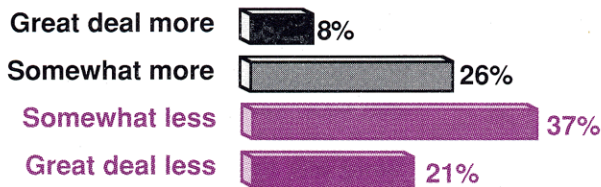
## Where the Public Stands on 10 Key Issues

The standing of an incumbent president who is running again is always a big part of the presidential election story. In pages 50 through 59, we review the public's assessments of Bill Clinton and his conduct of the presidency from 1992 to the present.

Polity Watch opens here, however, with a different perspective on the election. In late October, John Brennan and his colleagues at the *Los Angeles Times* poll conducted a comprehensive survey of Americans' stands on a wide array of policy questions. We present here a summary of the poll's findings.

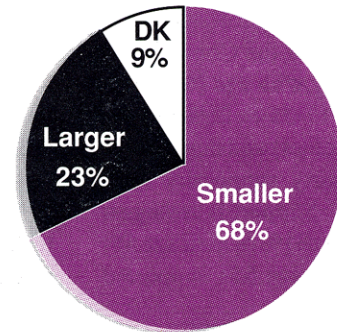
### 1. Defense Spending

**Question:** Generally speaking, do you think the federal government should spend a great deal more money on national defense, or somewhat more, or somewhat less, or do you think the federal government should spend a great deal less money on national defense?



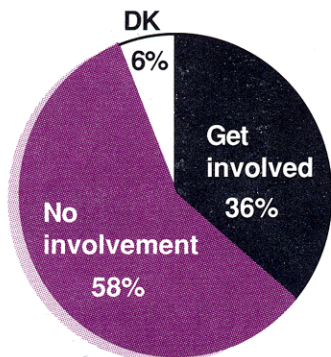
### 2. How Much Government?

**Question:** Would you say you favor smaller government with fewer services, or larger government with many services? Do you feel strongly about that or not?



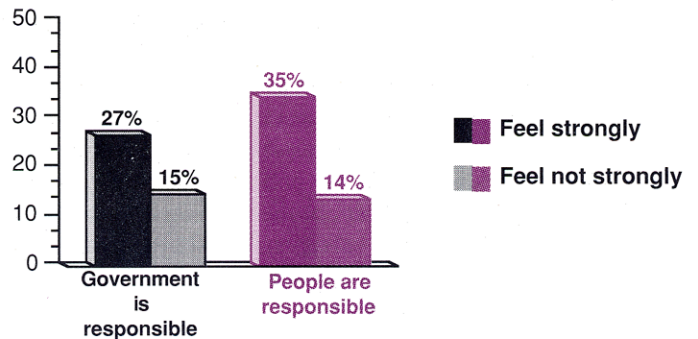
### 3. Government and Jobs

**Question:** Do you think the government should get involved in trying to help business create jobs and compete productively or is that something business can do better without government involvement?



### 4. Who's Responsible?

**Question:** Which statement comes closest to your view: "The government is responsible for the well-being of all its citizens and it has an obligation to help people when they are in trouble," or "People are responsible for their own well-being and they have an obligation to take care of themselves when they are in trouble." Do you feel strongly about that, or not?

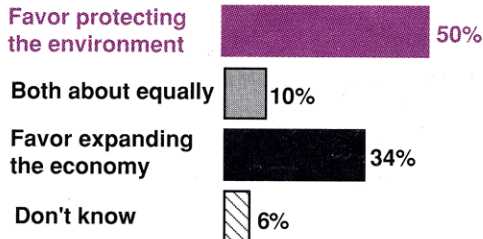


Source: Survey by the *Los Angeles Times*, October 27 - 30, 1995.



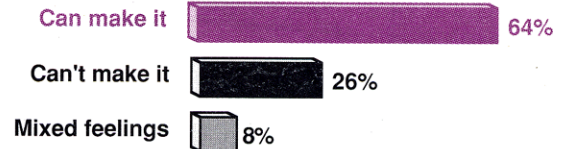
### 5. Environment

**Question:** Are you in favor of protecting the environment even if that means some people will lose their jobs and the government will have to spend a great deal of money ...or are you in favor of providing more jobs and expanding the economy even if that means some destruction of the environment?



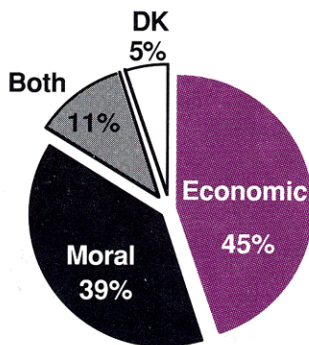
### 6. Opportunity

**Question:** Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion: "In the US today, anyone who works hard enough can make it economically," or "No matter how hard you work you just can't make it economically in this country today?"



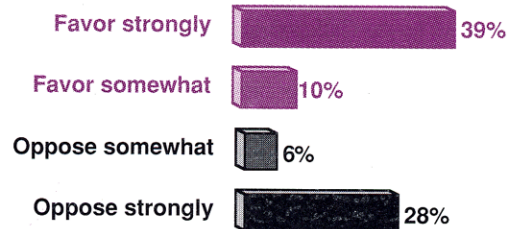
### 7. Families

**Question:** Do you think families in this country are threatened more today by an economic climate that makes finding jobs and affordable health care difficult, or are they threatened more by a moral climate that hurts community standards and strong family units?



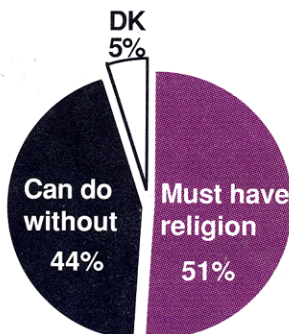
### 8. Abortion

**Question:** As you know, in 1973 the US Supreme Court handed down a landmark decision called Roe vs. Wade, which essentially accepted abortion in principle... are you in favor of the Supreme Court decision which permits a woman to get an abortion from a doctor at any time within the first three months of her pregnancy, or are you opposed to that...?



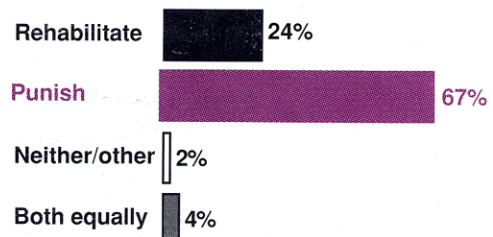
### 9. Religion

**Question:** In order to improve the moral climate in this country, do you think we must put more emphasis on religion, or can we improve the moral climate without necessarily placing more emphasis on religion?



### 10. Crime and Punishment

**Question:** Where does government need to make a greater effort these days: in trying to rehabilitate criminals who commit violent crimes or in trying to punish and put away criminals who commit violent crimes?



Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, October 27 - 30, 1995.