

Appendix A. Telephone Survey Instrument

<phone>

ID # _____

<First Name> <Last Name>
<Address>
<City> AK <ZIP>
<Party Affiliation>
<Gender>

Hello, my name is [_____]; I am with the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage. We are conducting a brief survey on state fiscal policy and would like to ask [NAME] a few questions.

May I speak with [NAME]? YES NO

[if unavailable] Is there another registered voter in the household?

NO → Thank you but we are only asking questions of registered voters . .

YES



[IF YES, IDENTIFY R]

Hello, my name is [_____]; I am with the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage. We are conducting a brief survey on state fiscal policy and would like to ask you a few questions.

Your name was randomly selected from a list of registered voters. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. All of your responses will be confidential and used only in combination with responses from other voters. Do you have any questions before I begin?

**Screening Survey of Registered Voters
Regarding the Fiscal Gap Problem
September 2002**

Q1. Some people believe Alaska has a fiscal gap problem because state government uses savings to pay for state services and to balance the budget. Others say this is not a problem. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means “no problem at all” and 10 means “a really serious problem,” how serious do you believe the fiscal gap is? *[circle one number]*

No Problem at All			←—————→				Really Serious Problem		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Don't Know/Not Sure

Q2. If a long-range fiscal plan for the State of Alaska is enacted, it may involve several revenue-raising proposals, among them an income tax, use of Permanent Fund earnings, and other taxes like an alcohol tax or gas tax. Generally speaking, and without considering the details, how likely is it that you would support efforts to enact such a plan? Is it **extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?**

Extremely likely (1)

Very likely (2)

Somewhat likely (3)

Not very likely (4)

Not at all likely (5)

Don't Know/Not Sure (8)

Q3. Now I am going to read you a list of 10 statements. Please tell me if you **strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree** with each statement I read.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I don't think we need a fiscal plan. The state still has lots of money.	1	2	3	4	5
b. We can solve our fiscal problems just by cutting state government spending.	1	2	3	4	5
c. A fiscal plan will just give politicians more money to waste.	1	2	3	4	5
d. More economic development will solve the problem.	1	2	3	4	5
e. The only sound approach is a balanced fiscal plan, including spending limits, new taxes, and Permanent Fund earnings.	1	2	3	4	5
f. I won't support a plan that would reduce my future Permanent Fund dividends.	1	2	3	4	5
g. I won't support a plan if it includes an income tax.	1	2	3	4	5
h. I won't support a plan if it includes a sales tax.	1	2	3	4	5
i. Let's increase taxes on oil.	1	2	3	4	5
j. Let's tax the tourists and nonresidents.	1	2	3	4	5

Q4. Please take a moment to think about how you form your opinions about state fiscal policy. I'm going to read you a list of four different sources you may use in forming your opinion. Please rank them in order of importance to you.

- 4a. The opinion of someone you trust
- 4b. The views of an organization you trust
- 4c. Information you receive from university research, web sites, media, or other sources
- 4d. How you feel about government in general

Q4e. You said [SOURCE RANKED #1] is the most important source. [WHO WAS THAT PERSON? WHAT ORGANIZATION IS IT? WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION? PLEASE TELL ME BRIEFLY WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT GOVERNMENT?]

Q4f. You said [SOURCE RANKED #2] is the second most important source. [WHO WAS THAT PERSON? WHAT ORGANIZATION IS IT? WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION? PLEASE TELL ME BRIEFLY WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT GOVERNMENT?]

Q5. Is there information you would like to have that would help you develop your opinion on state fiscal policy questions? [PROBE AND CODE: 0=nothing; 1=data that already exists; 2=data that doesn't exist]

I have only a few more questions to ask you.

Q6. In what year were you born? →

Q1. If response = 3 – 8 → Yes
Q2. If response = 2 – 4, or 8 → Yes
Q4c. If response = 1 or 2 → Yes



If all = “yes”,
continue with
next page

If one or more = “no” → Thank you for
taking the time to answer my questions.

[Script for Web site review]

Q7. Do you have a computer with internet access?

No → Thank you for

Yes



We are building a web site called “A Citizen’s Guide to the Budget.” We are asking a small number of involved citizens to review the web site and tell us what they like and don’t like about it. We are offering a \$25 compensation to our reviewers. Would you be willing to review our web site?

No → Thank you for

Yes



Thank you very much! Will you give me your e-mail address?

Let me verify that [READ IT BACK]

You can expect to receive an e-mail with further instructions and the website link sometime in the next several weeks. Thank you very much for your help.