

Referendum Survey data – YouGov

Surrey PCC Kevin Hurley commissioned YouGov plc to carry out independent research of Surrey people over a series of months to understand public sentiment towards the referendum. The questions asked and the corresponding results are as follows:

Questions

Currently 13% of the total council tax you pay in your area goes to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to help pay for policing the county. Based on an average Band D property this equates to £211 per year or approximately £4 per week. For the financial year beginning on 1st April 2015, the Police and Crime Commissioner is considering increasing the police share of the council tax by 24%. This is to avoid cutting police numbers due to budget cuts and instead increase police numbers by up to 400. This tax increase would equal a rise of £51 a year – just under £1 per week - for a Band D tax payer, taking the overall police charge from £211 to £262 a year. If the Commissioner decided to increase the police share of the council tax by 24%, it would be subject to the result of a referendum. If the Commissioner decided to make a 24% increase but then the public voted against it in the referendum, the police share of council tax would instead increase by 1.99%. For a Band D tax payer this would equal a rise of £4 per year, taking the overall police charge from £211 to £215 per year. If most voters in Surrey Police’s area choose ‘yes’, the increase will be 24%

If most voters in Surrey Police’s area choose ‘no’, the increase will be 1.99%

If a referendum were to be held to decide on the council tax increase, would you vote...?

<1>Yes – an increase of 24%

<2>No – an increase of 1.99%

<3>Don’t know

<4>Not applicable – I would not vote

To increase council tax by this amount, the Police and Crime Commissioner would need to hold a referendum, where residents of Surrey could vote for or against the proposal. If held, this referendum would take place in May 2015 on the same day as the General Election.

To what extent would you support or oppose a referendum being held?

<1> Strongly support

<2> Support

<3> Oppose

<4> Strongly oppose

<5> Don't know

Results

All of these figures are from YouGov Plc. Total sample sizes for each survey are indicated in the table below. All respondents were adults living in Surrey. Fieldwork dates are also indicated in the table below. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults living in Surrey (aged 16+).

If a referendum were to be held to decide on the council tax increase, would you vote...?

	Wave 1 – Fieldwork 18/11/14- 26/11/14	Wave 2 – Fieldwork 18/12/14- 31/12/14	Wave 3 – Fieldwork 15/1/15- 26/1/15
Total sample surveyed	1055	1165	1015
Yes – an increase of 24%	32%	30%	31%
No – an increase of 1.99%	47%	47%	48%
Don't know	18%	18%	17%
Not applicable – I would not vote	4%	5%	4%

To what extent would you support or oppose a referendum being held?

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3
Net: Support	73%	68%	69%
Net: Oppose	15%	19%	18%