



# EYE ON ALBERTA

DECEMBER 2012

## Alberta's Public Affairs Monitor

- EJ GT COLUMN EXCERPTS -

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# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 👁 Study fielded via online research panel
  - 👁 Field Dates: December 10 - 15, 2012
  - 👁 Panel Source: Voice of Alberta
- 👁 n=1310
- 👁 Weighted to reflect gender, age, region of Alberta population according to Stats Canada
- 👁 Sample of 1310, margin of error, which measures sampling variability, is +/- 2.7%
- 👁 Margin of error larger & varies for subsamples

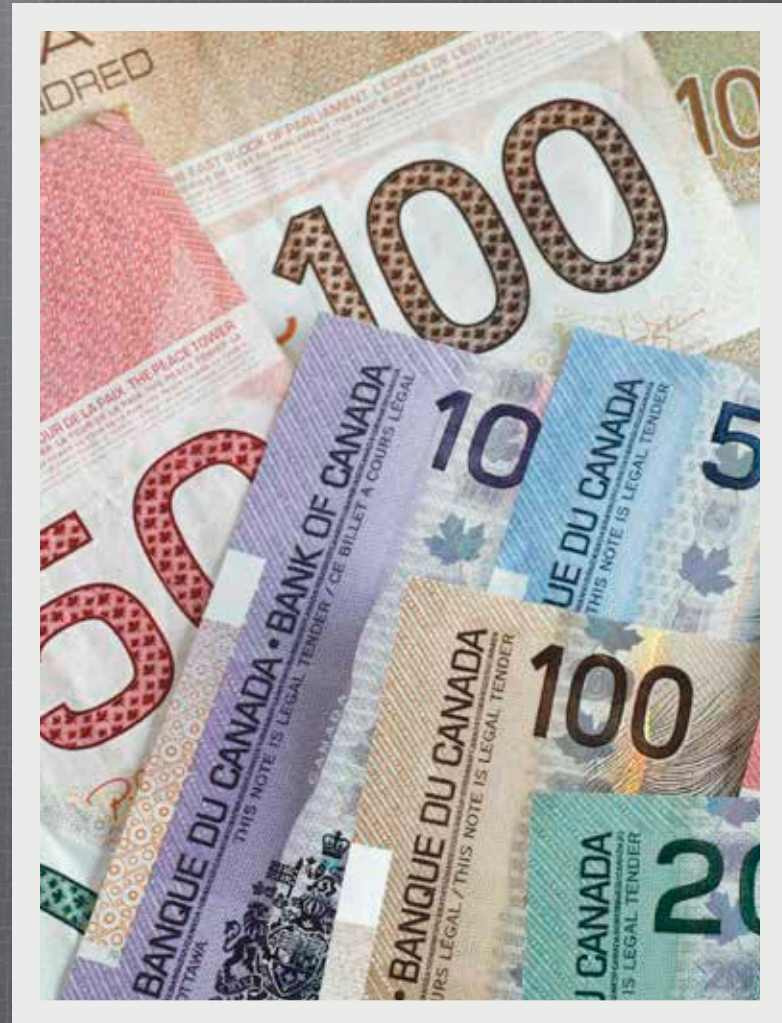
# REGIONAL SAMPLE SIZES & MARGINS OF ERROR

	Total Interviews (Unweighted) (n)	Total Interviews (Weighted) (n)	Margin of Error
ALBERTA TOTAL	1310	1310	+/- 2.7
Calgary CMA	429	439	+/- 4.7
Edmonton CMA	377	400	+/- 4.9
North	137	170	+/- 7.5
Central	193	158	+/- 7.8
South	172	144	+/- 8.2



# POLITICAL ISSUE PROBE

## Public Views on the Provincial Budget





# PROVINCIAL BUDGET

## - A DIFFICULT SPRING SESSION AHEAD -

- ☞ The Spring Session will be a major challenge for the Tories
  - ☞ Public sentiment calls for spending cuts to balance the budget
  - ☞ Government has done little to condition electorate for “smart debt” policy
  - ☞ Budget issues have few political upsides for the Tories: galvanizes WR supporters, splits PC voters

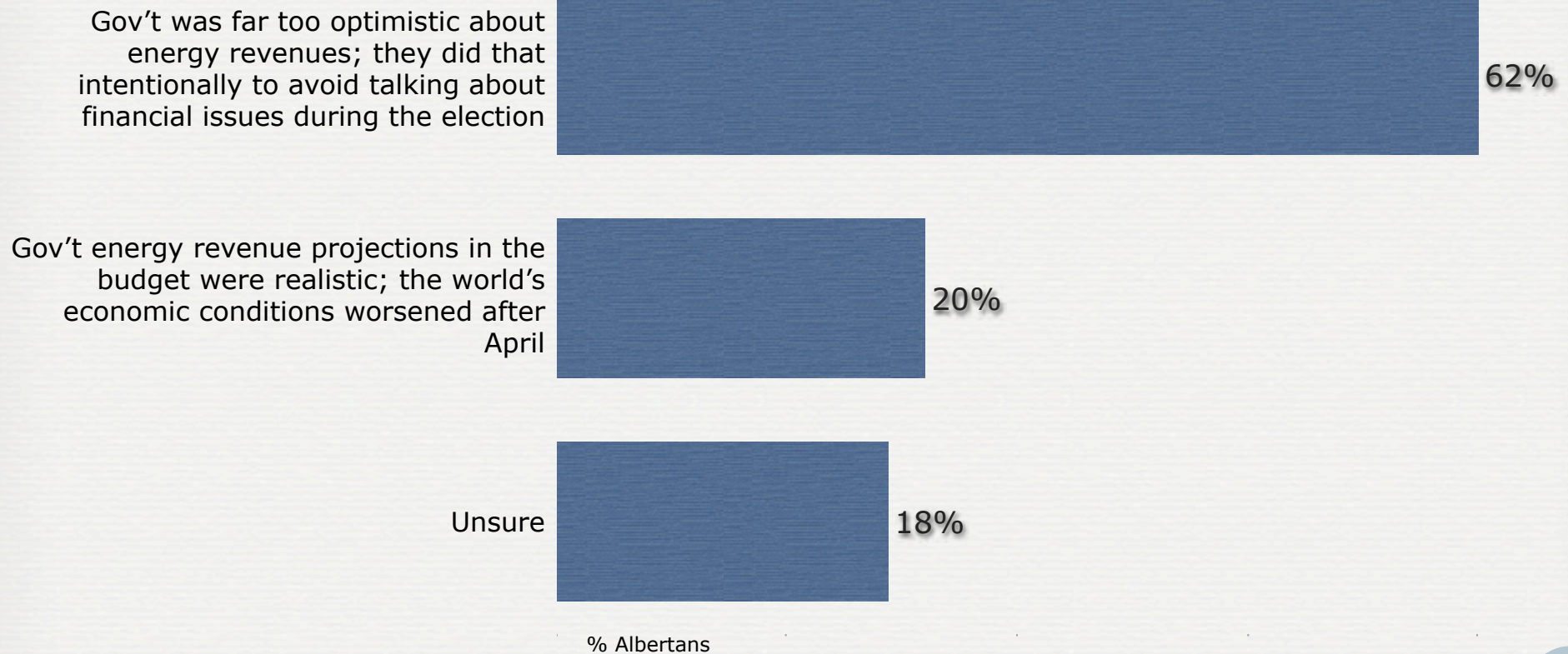


PC government has pricey promises to keep & a serious budget problem ahead: Aspirations to channel Lougheed, but government runs the risk of acquiring a Getty reputation

# PERCEIVED CAUSE OF LARGER BUDGET DEFICIT

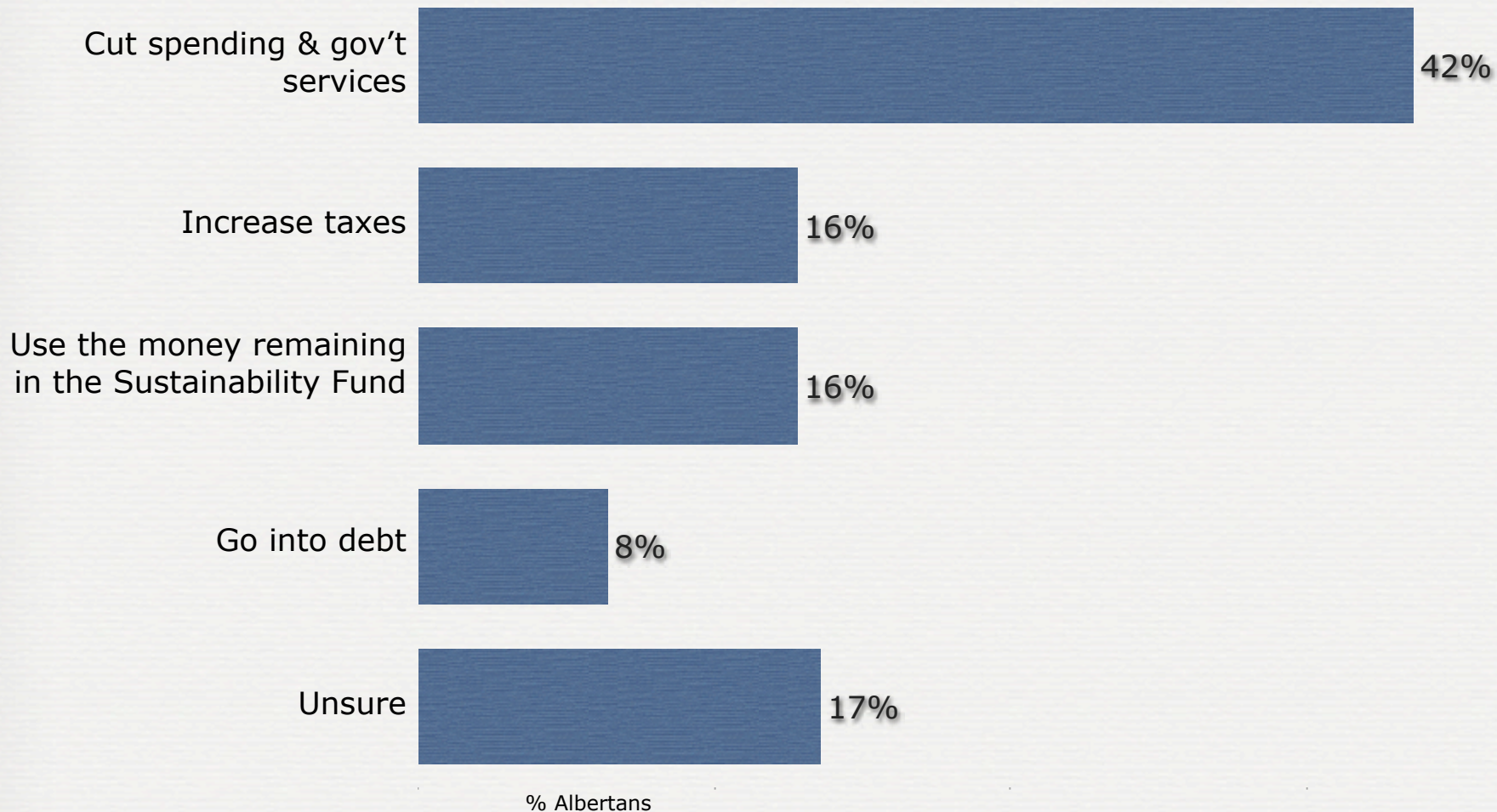
## - POLITICS OR CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES -

"When it comes to energy revenue forecasts in the Provincial Budget, different people have different ideas about why the deficit is going to be bigger than originally planned. The following are two broad points of view on this issue. Which one best represents your own feelings?"



# PUBLIC VIEWS ON ADDRESSING PROVINCIAL DEFICIT

"In its second-quarter financial update, the Province of Alberta indicated that the Provincial budget deficit, originally projected to be roughly \$900 Million this year, is now expected to be a shortfall of between \$2.5 - \$3 Billion. Knowing this, what course of action would you prefer the Government of Alberta take in relation to its budget?"





# PUBLIC VIEWS ON ADDRESSING PROVINCIAL DEFICIT

## - BY PROVINCIAL VOTE INTENTION -

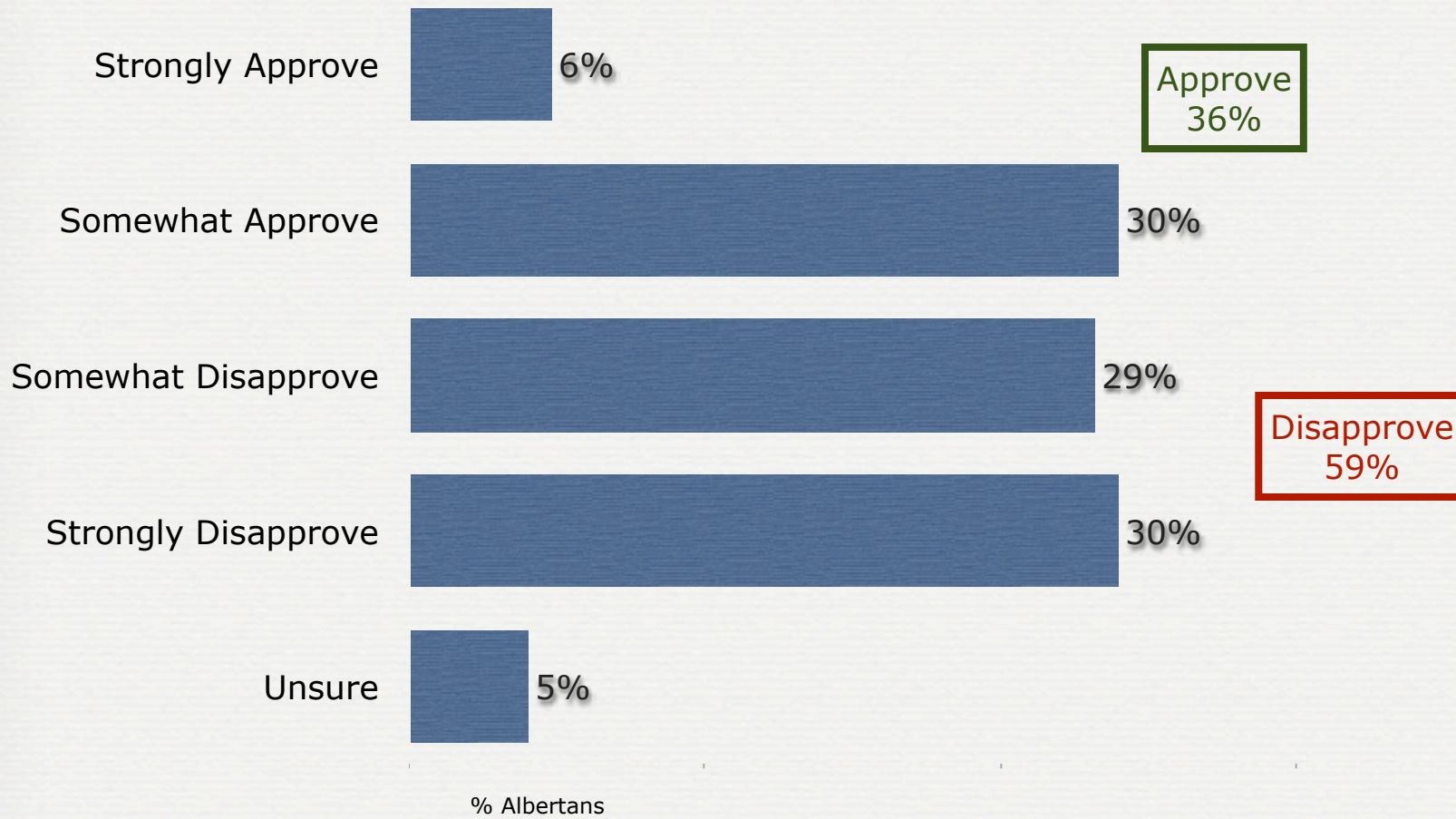
"In its second-quarter financial update, the Province of Alberta indicated that the Provincial budget deficit, originally projected to be roughly \$900 Million this year, is now expected to be a shortfall of between \$2.5 - \$3 Billion. Knowing this, what course of action would you prefer the Government of Alberta take in relation to its budget?"

	TOTAL (1310)	PC (337)	Wildrose (390)	Liberal (130)	NDP (173)	Undecided (171)
Cut government spending and services	42%	41%	→ 67%	22% ←	20% ←	40%
Increase taxes	16%	10%	7% ←	18%	→ 37%	16%
Use the money remaining in the Sustainability Fund	16%	20%	13%	21%	17%	12%
Go into debt	8%	12%	3%	→ 18%	12%	3%
Unsure	17%	18%	10%	20%	15%	29%



# PUBLIC REACTION TO “SMART DEBT” IN ALBERTA

“Alberta has been debt-free since 2004. Currently annual operating and capital budgets are funded exclusively from revenues and savings and not from borrowing. Recently, the Provincial Government announced a change to this policy. Going forward, the Province will use debt, that is borrowing money, to pay for some major infrastructure projects. Overall, would you say that you personally approve or disapprove of this?”



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	TOTAL (1310)	PC (337)	Wildrose (390)	Liberal (130)	NDP (173)	Undecided (171)
Strongly Approve	6%	8%	2%	10%	9%	4%
Somewhat Approve	30%	43%	14%	39%	35%	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	29%	30%	25%	30%	29%	27%
Strongly Disapprove	30%	16%	58%	15%	24%	21%
Unsure	5%	2%	1%	6%	2%	21%
APPROVE	36%	51%	16%	49%	44%	32%
DISAPPROVE	59%	46%	83%	45%	53%	48%
NET APPROVE	-23	➡ +5	-67 ⬅	+4	-9	-16





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