

Vote the 'Bums' out of Office

The just-released Wealth Hazards Worry Index shows that more than half of people intend to vote this year with their checkbooks in mind

ATLANTA, April 30 -- The *Wealth Hazards* Worry Index reports that 52 percent of people who vote regularly intend to vote in this fall's mid-term elections with their economic woes in mind. Only 23 percent of people said that our elected officials should not be held accountable for the economy, while another 25 percent viewed elected officials as only partially to blame. "People are mad as hell and they're not willing to give politicians the benefit of the doubt much longer" says Thomas Hertog, managing editor at *Wealth Hazards*. "The most frequent comment made in the survey follow-up was 'I've lost my job, it's time they lost their job'," said Hertog, "another common refrain follows that 'we're all working ourselves to death, only to lose our homes and jobs and Congress does nothing'."

The turn against government officials marks an erosion of confidence that had escaped consumer's wrath until recently. Many people explained that they were initially understanding and willing to give politicians time to improve the economy, but now they feel that enough time has passed and that we should be further along in the recovery process. One key point has been the on and off support that Congress has given to the \$8,000 tax credit for home purchases. This has been viewed as an important ingredient in support for the housing recovery and with its recent expiration some consumers are wondering how long it will be before the real estate market enters a double-dip. "Only time will tell if the public's frustration is reflected in the ballot box and ultimately with a new game of musical chairs in Congress, state capitols, county boards, and city councils across the country." says Hertog. For now, though, the threat of 'throwing out the bums' is being taken seriously by incumbents and challengers alike. No one likes to be judged too harshly for outcomes that are not directly attributable to their efforts or actions, so politicians are walking a fine line between pushing back on the voters who need an outlet for their pain and the reality that elected officials may have been able to do something to improve the economy.

About the Worry Index

The *Wealth Hazards* Worry Index was created to capture the ever-changing sentiment of consumers. It is measured each month using various questions and methodologies designed to better understand what issues are of the most concern to consumers. You can view the survey at <http://www.WorryIndex.com>.

About *Wealth Hazards*

A wealth hazard is a risk or threat to your financial health. Wealth hazards come in all shapes and sizes and very often in disguise. *Wealth Hazards* was established to help people to avoid, manage, and recover from life's wealth hazards. The new book *Wealth Hazards - Surviving the Recovery* is now available at <http://www.WealthHazards.com>.

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