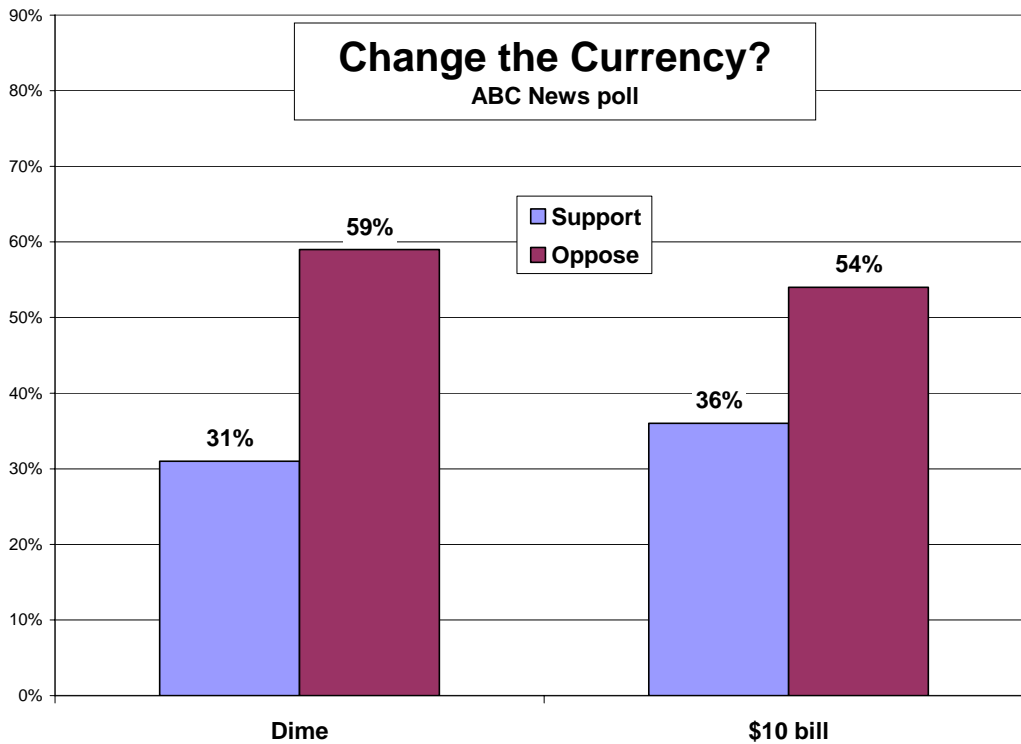


Reaganomics Revisited: Change the Currency?

Ronald Reagan may be missed, but the idea of honoring him on currently occupied currency doesn't add up for most Americans.

By 54 to 36 percent, most people oppose replacing Alexander Hamilton's portrait on the \$10 bill with Reagan's. And 59 percent oppose another proposal, ousting Franklin D. Roosevelt from the dime to make way for Reagan.

The sawbuck switch is favored by the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project, whose president, Grover Norquist, notes that Hamilton, a founding father and the first Treasury secretary, has held the spot since 1928, and wasn't a president to boot. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-KY, the majority whip, has said he'll lead the charge for the change.



Support for putting Reagan on the dime has about doubled, albeit just to 31 percent, compared with a Gallup poll late last year. That's likely due to a swell of affection prompted by Reagan's death, as well as by the fact that Gallup asked when he was still

alive. Putting a living person's image on U.S. currency is legal, but it's never been done. George Washington knocked down the idea as smacking of a monarchy.

The 10-cent plan lost currency when Nancy Reagan opposed it last December.

Political sympathies, naturally, play a role in these views. Republicans are twice as likely as Democrats to support putting Reagan on the 10-spot, 48 percent to 24 percent. At the same time, Republicans favor the idea only by a seven-point margin, while Democrats oppose it by nearly 3-1. And Republicans are even less apt to favor changing the dime.

	\$10 bill		10-cent coin	
	Reagan vs Hamilton		Reagan vs Roosevelt	
All	36%	54	31%	59
Democrats	24	67	21	69
Independents	32	59	32	57
Republicans	48	41	42	51

Roosevelt's been on the dime since 1946, a year after his death. Another plan, not tested in this poll, would put Reagan on the half dollar in place of John F. Kennedy, who's been there since the year after his assassination, 1964, displacing Benjamin Franklin.

Whatever the outcome of the currency debate, there'll be no shortage of Reagan memorials. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has proposed naming the Pentagon after him. The former National Airport in Washington already bears his name, as do at least two U.S. post offices, a courthouse, an aircraft carrier and a variety of schools, buildings and streets around the world.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone June 9-13, 2004, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Cheryl Arnedt.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

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Full results follow:

1. (SPLIT HALF A) Thinking about U.S. currency, would you support or oppose removing Alexander Hamilton's portrait from the 10-dollar bill and replacing it with a portrait of Ronald Reagan?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
6/13/04	36	54	11

2. (SPLIT HALF B) Thinking about U.S. currency, would you support or oppose removing Franklin Roosevelt's portrait from the dime and replacing it with a portrait of Ronald Reagan?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
6/13/04	31	59	10
12/7/03*	16	82	2

*Gallup: Would you favor or oppose a bill that would remove Franklin Roosevelt's portrait from the dime and replace it with a portrait of Ronald Reagan?

END