



ALABAMA'S GENEROSITY WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Alabamians who often find themselves at the bottom of national lists were commended for their giving nature in a recent publication.

According to an analysis by the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Alabamians give an average of 8.0 to 9.9 percent of their discretionary income annually to charity.

The news came as no surprise to officials at Alabama Giving, a statewide initiative committed to increasing philanthropy and communicating the value and importance of philanthropy. Alabama Giving is supported by the Alabama Funders Forum, a statewide network of private, corporate and community foundations.

"Reports from The Urban Institute's National Center for Charitable Statistics consistently list Alabama among the top six states in terms of individual giving to charity," said Elizabeth Dennis, Program Coordinator of Alabama Giving. "Alabama Giving communicates the benefits of using personal assets as well as income for lifelong philanthropy contributions."

The Chronicle listing, which includes county-by-county rankings, lists three Alabama counties on a national top-50 list. This list, including counties where 10,000 or more itemized tax returns were reported, puts Montgomery County at number 20 with 9.6 percent of discretionary income given to charity, Jefferson County at number 33 with 9.1 percent and Madison County at number 49 with 8.6 percent. The top two counties in the nation were Utah County in Utah with 23.6 percent and Bronx County, New York, with 23 percent.

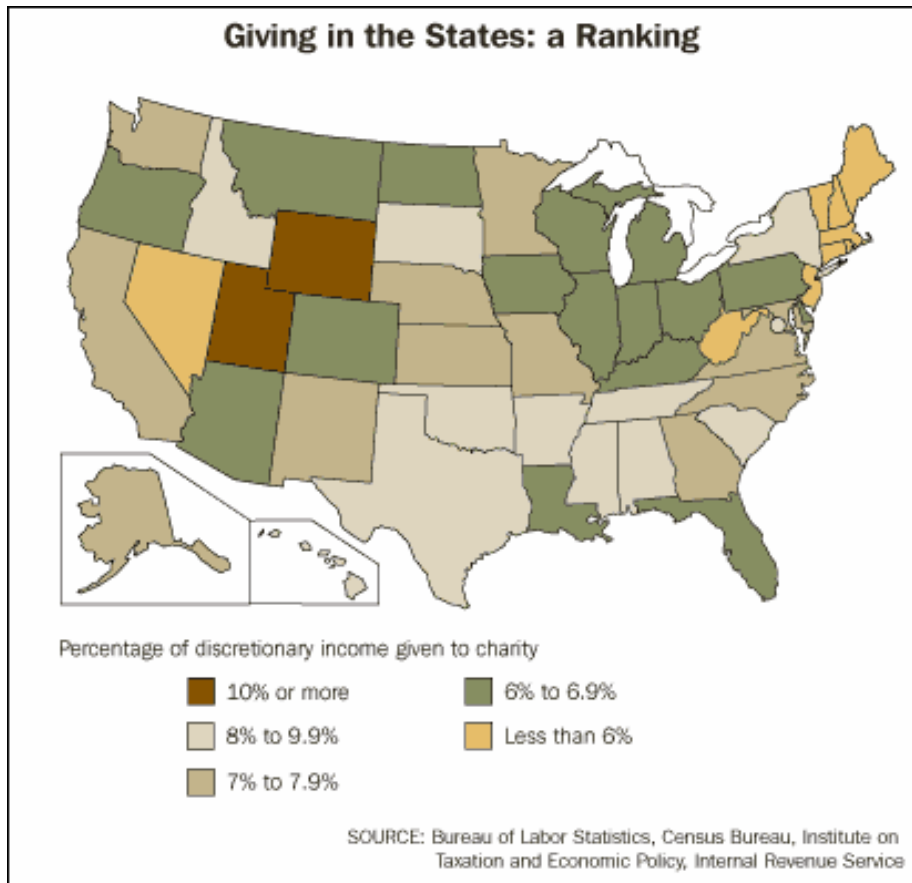
The analysis found that residents of areas with strong religious beliefs or large African-American populations like Alabama tend to give more to charity. It also found that single women were more charitable than their male counterparts. Self-employed and higher educated people also tend to give more.

"Through the Alabama Giving Project (funded by a grant from New Ventures in Philanthropy), we are working to educate and inform people and businesses about giving options," says Bill Johnson, President of Alabama Funders Forum and Alabama Power Foundation. "We also want to spread the word about the many benefits of philanthropy in terms of growth and the quality of life now and in the future and see all areas of the state reap these benefits."



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50 Most Generous Counties: 10,000 or More Tax Returns

County	State	Itemized Returns	Average Discretionary Income	Average Charitable Donation	Percentage of Discretionary Income to Charity
UTAH	Utah	23,737	\$44,284	\$10,460	23.6%
BRONX	N.Y.	41,741	\$13,472	\$3,100	23.0%
DAVIS	Utah	23,158	\$33,028	\$6,595	20.0%
KINGS	N.Y.	106,271	\$26,932	\$5,289	19.6%
PRINCE GEORGE'S	Md.	88,166	\$20,615	\$3,443	16.7%
QUEENS	N.Y.	135,571	\$17,108	\$2,720	15.9%
WEBER	Utah	15,926	\$32,643	\$4,931	15.1%
SALT LAKE	Utah	77,839	\$43,839	\$6,522	14.9%
SOLANO	Calif.	39,578	\$16,302	\$2,016	12.4%
OTTAWA	Mich.	26,717	\$46,053	\$5,430	11.8%
HAMILTON	Tenn.	18,398	\$69,939	\$7,724	11.0%
BRAZORIA	Tex.	14,047	\$32,260	\$3,368	10.4%
RICHMOND	N.Y.	52,296	\$23,690	\$2,439	10.3%
CHARLES	Md.	15,879	\$23,021	\$2,360	10.3%
ANOKA	Minn.	36,617	\$19,019	\$1,932	10.2%
DENVER	Colo.	42,936	\$60,326	\$6,094	10.1%
HINDS	Miss.	14,253	\$67,176	\$6,629	9.9%
KENT	Mich.	56,198	\$46,955	\$4,619	9.8%
CLAYTON	Ga.	13,044	\$32,768	\$3,163	9.7%
MONTGOMERY	Ala.	15,271	\$58,332	\$5,609	9.6%
GASTON	N.C.	14,486	\$40,945	\$3,929	9.6%
MUSCOGEE	Ga.	11,110	\$58,457	\$5,587	9.6%
SEDGWICK	Kan.	39,566	\$47,886	\$4,566	9.5%
SAN BERNARDINO	Calif.	115,136	\$27,278	\$2,599	9.5%
ST. LOUIS CITY	Mo.	12,126	\$45,676	\$4,336	9.5%
ROCKLAND	N.Y.	43,331	\$39,285	\$3,720	9.5%
ALACHUA	Fla.	10,847	\$62,267	\$5,893	9.5%
SPARTANBURG	S.C.	16,970	\$48,156	\$4,501	9.3%
NEW YORK	N.Y.	208,416	\$125,896	\$11,744	9.3%
SAN FRANCISCO	Calif.	75,901	\$69,938	\$6,499	9.3%
TARRANT	Tex.	100,056	\$47,143	\$4,374	9.3%
RAMSEY	Minn.	55,049	\$37,586	\$3,454	9.2%

JEFFERSON	Ala.	53,781	\$62,057	\$5,653	9.1%
AIKEN	S.C.	12,283	\$38,019	\$3,449	9.1%
WASHINGTON	D.C.	50,023	\$62,376	\$5,604	9.0%
KITSAP	Wash.	20,291	\$30,188	\$2,709	9.0%
HONOLULU	Hawaii	80,911	\$27,943	\$2,498	8.9%
NEWPORT NEWS CITY	Va.	11,483	\$32,103	\$2,867	8.9%
RICHMOND	Ga.	15,285	\$46,277	\$4,089	8.8%
HENRY	Ga.	13,124	\$30,965	\$2,736	8.8%
PUTNAM	N.Y.	15,956	\$29,404	\$2,588	8.8%
CUMBERLAND	N.C.	15,898	\$37,902	\$3,326	8.8%
CABARRUS	N.C.	12,420	\$35,692	\$3,126	8.8%
GALVESTON	Tex.	17,567	\$39,205	\$3,433	8.8%
GUILFORD	N.C.	42,467	\$56,655	\$4,930	8.7%
RIVERSIDE	Calif.	106,074	\$31,989	\$2,782	8.7%
BALTIMORE CITY	Md.	33,824	\$52,167	\$4,526	8.7%
JACKSON	Mo.	51,276	\$40,141	\$3,481	8.7%
MADISON	Ala.	28,693	\$45,296	\$3,903	8.6%
POLK	Fla.	17,422	\$55,392	\$4,756	8.6%
Note: Include only taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or more who itemized deductions on their federal tax returns.					
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, Internal Revenue Service					