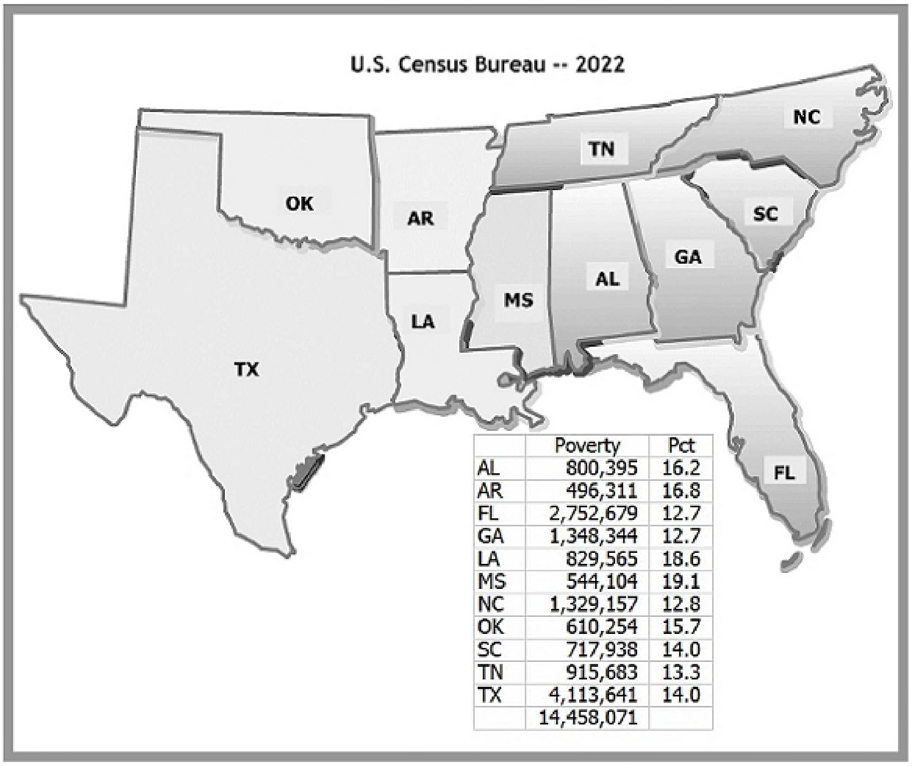
Economic Issues



	Poverty	Pct
AL	800,395	16.2
AR	496,311	16.8
FL	2,752,679	12.7
GA	1,348,344	12.7
LA	829,565	18.6
MS	544,104	19.1
NC	1,329,157	12.8
OK	610,254	15.7
SC	717,938	14.0
TN	915,683	13.3
TX	4,113,641	14.0
	14,458,071	

Poverty is a societal issue that negatively affects millions of people across the country. Those who lack the resources to care for themselves and their families experience hardships their physical and mental well being. While the government generally defines poverty through economic lens, the public writ large offers complex and contrasting views on why and who should pay for people in need.

People who live pay check to pay check might not meet the government’s poverty guideline standards, but still face many hurdles to provide basic necessities for themselves and their families. Frequently their problems are characterized for poor life choices, the breakdown of families, or drug and alcohol abuse. Not knowing individual circumstances; it could be unemployment through no fault of their own, or taking care of family members who are not able to work. Regardless of their circumstances, we as a people should not ignore millions of peoples’ plights.

The Sixteenth Amendment gives Congress the power to collect taxes. Debates center on fairness for individuals and business entities. Complexities in the Tax Code, which contains more than 9,000 sections, make it difficult to ensure fairness. It is easy to blame the Internal Revenue Service, but the agency is a regulator and collector of taxes. You should look to members of Congress who have competing ideologies about economic and social policies. Individuals, corporate and nonprofit entities seek a tax benefit(s) through lobbying efforts. This is the American way to influence who gets what and when. Special interests groups get the upper-hand, especially when they donate millions of dollars to members of Congress and political campaigns. State and local governments face similar daunting tasks for the same reasons.