

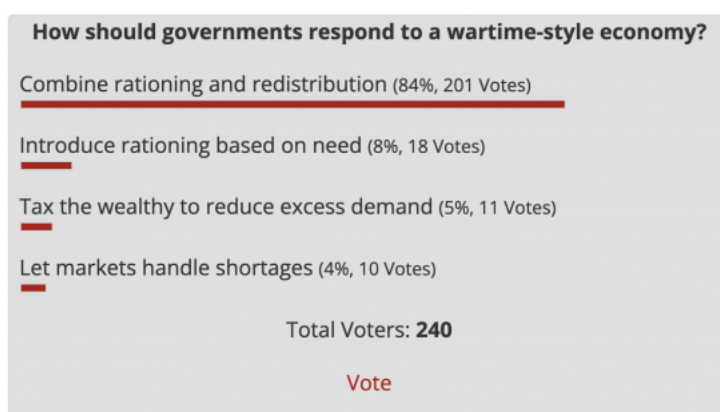
Funding the Future

Like it or not, the appeal of wealth taxes appears to b...

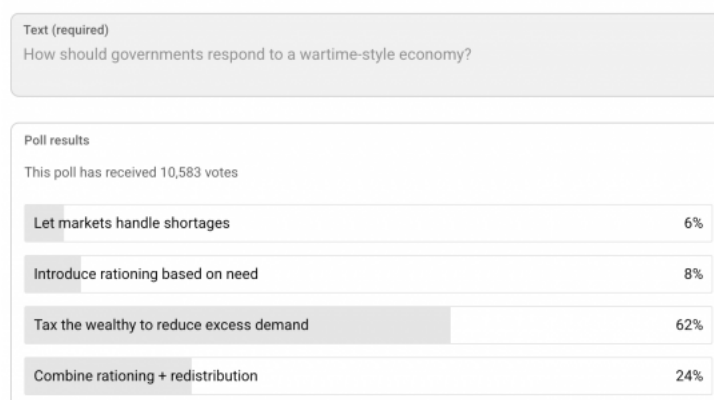
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I am aware that we post a lot of polls on this blog these days, although I readily admit most are on our videos and are designed for a YouTube audience.

Usually, the results of polls on YouTube are closely aligned with those on this blog. Yesterday was an exception. [This was the poll on the blog:](#)



The [YouTube poll](#) revealed a quite different balance, with a much greater number of people voting:



Apparently, 10,600 people have voted in this poll so far. Their preference is very strongly for taxing wealth. The preferences of those voting here are much more balanced, favouring a range of actions, including the potential for increased well taxes.

Perhaps I should not be surprised by this, but I am. The simplistic appeal of wealth taxes really does work with audiences who are angry about economic injustice. The fact that they are so difficult to deliver, due to the massive administrative burden and cost of establishing what a person's wealth might be, is an issue that those who support this form of taxation seem unaware of or choose to ignore. I very strongly suspect that this was a factor in the YouTube result. Although I referred to increasing taxes on income and gains derived from wealth in the video, it was hard to be that nuanced in the question in the poll, given the limited number of words that can be used.

In that case, it is easy to see why the Green Party continues to advocate for a wealth tax, even though there are many better options available in practice for raising revenue and for tackling inequality. I am beginning to recognise, as a consequence, that arguing against the inclusion of such a tax in a manifesto is pointless. The argument has to be about what happens if the opportunity for delivery arises, when better choices on taxes to be imposed will have to be made.

Thoughts would be welcome on this issue.