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Tea Party Reps Say Stand on Principle Even if it Means a
Shutdown

Public Would Blame Both Sides if Government Shuts Down

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Tea Party Reps Say Stand on Principle Even if it Means a Shutdown Public Would Blame Both Sides if Government Shuts Down

With an April 8 deadline approaching for a possible shutdown of the federal government, the public remains divided over whether congressional Republicans or the Obama administration would be more to blame if a shutdown occurs.

Currently, 39% say Republicans would be more to blame if the two sides cannot agree on a budget and the government shuts down, 36% say the Obama administration, and 16% volunteer both sides.

These opinions are little changed from late February. However, opinions are far different now than they were during a similar dispute in 1995, shortly before the government did shut down. In November 1995, a few days before the government shut down, 46% said it would be mainly the Republicans' fault while 27% said the Clinton administration would be more at fault, according to a Washington Post/ABC News survey.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 30-April 3 among 1,507 adults, finds that most (55%) want the lawmakers they agree with on this issue to be more willing to compromise, even if it means they pass a budget they disagree with. Far fewer (36%) want the lawmakers they agree with to stand by their principles, even if it means the government shuts down.

Divided on Shutdown Blame, But Most Want Compromise

	Feb 24-27	Mar 30- Apr 3
<i>If federal gov't shuts down, who would be most to blame ...</i>	%	%
Republicans	36	39
Obama administration	35	36
Both equally (Vol.)	17	16
Neither/Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100

Lawmakers who share your views on this issue should...

Stand by their principles, even if it means the government shuts down	--	36
Be more willing to compromise, even if they pass budget you disagree with	--	55
Don't know	--	<u>10</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 30-April 3, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans are divided over whether to stand on principle or accept a budget they disagree with. Half of Republicans (50%) say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles even if that means the government shuts down; 43% say lawmakers should be more willing to compromise, even if that results in a budget they disagree with.

Most conservative Republicans (56%) favor lawmakers standing by their principles, even if that leads to a government shutdown. Just 37% of moderate and liberal Republicans favor this approach.

Among all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, fully 68% of those who agree with the Tea Party say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles, even if it means the government shuts down. That compares with just 35% of Republicans and GOP leaners who have no opinion of the Tea Party or disagree with the movement.

Democrats are far more unified: 69% say lawmakers who share their views should be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget they disagree with. There are no substantive differences in the views of liberal Democrats and the party's conservatives and moderates. Independents also say lawmakers should be more willing to compromise (by 53% to 38%).

As was the case in February, Republicans overwhelmingly say the Obama administration would be more to blame if a budget impasse leads to a government shutdown; 68% would mostly blame the administration while just 13% would mostly blame Republicans in Congress and 12% would blame both sides equally. By a similar margin (70% to 13%), Democrats would mostly blame Republicans rather than the Obama administration; 12% say both sides are equally to blame. Independents are evenly divided – 34% would

Tea Party Republicans Prefer Shutdown to Budget Deal They Disagree With

<i>Lawmakers who share your views on this issue should ...</i>	Stand by principles, even if gov't shuts down	Compromise, even on budget you disagree w/	DK
	%	%	%
Total	36	55	10=100
Republican	50	43	7=100
Conservative Rep	56	40	5=100
Mod/Lib Rep	37	52	11=100
Independent	38	53	8=100
Democrat	21	69	10=100
Liberal Dem	24	71	6=100
Cons/Mod Dem	19	68	13=100

Among Reps/Rep leaners

Agree w/ Tea Party	68	26	6=100
No opinion/Disagree	35	56	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 30-April 3, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

mostly blame Republicans while the same percentage would mostly blame the administration. Nearly a quarter of independents (23%) say both sides would be equally to blame if the government shuts down.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 30-April 3, 2011 among a national sample of 1,507 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,001 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 506 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 215 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,507	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	395	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	470	5.5 percentage points
Independents	561	5.0 percentage points
Conservative Reps	287	7.0 percentage points
Moderate/Liberal Reps	103	12.0 percentage points
Conserv/Mod Dems	279	7.5 percentage points
Liberal Dems	179	9.0 percentage points
Among Rep and Rep leaning independents:		
Agree with Tea Party	319	7.0 percentage points
Disagree/no opinion	338	6.5 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
APRIL 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 30-April 3, 2011
N=1507

Q.1 THROUGH Q.3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE:

ASK ALL:

- Q.4 How much if anything, have you heard about the possibility that the federal government might shut down this year if Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a budget **[READ IN ORDER]**?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	Nothing <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	42	25	2
Feb 24-27, 2011 ¹	37	34	29	*
Feb 17-20, 2011	21	35	44	*

ASK ALL:

- Q.5 If there is not a budget agreement by the end of next week the federal government will have to shut down nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		TREND FOR COMPARISON:	
		<i>Gallup</i>	
		<u>Feb 2011²</u>	<u>Aug 1995³</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down [OR] Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with		
36		32	35
55		60	60
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	5

ASK ALL:

- Q.6 If the federal government shuts down because **[RANDOMIZE: Republicans and the Obama administration]** can't agree on a budget, who do you think would be more to blame: **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS ABOVE: Republicans or the Obama administration]**?

Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>		Feb 24-27 <u>2011</u>
39	Republicans	36
36	The Obama administration	35
16	Both equally (VOL.)	17
2	Neither (VOL.)	1
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10

¹ For both February 2011 trends, the item was asked as part of a list. The wording for February 17-20, 2011, was: "The possibility that the federal government might shut down this year if Congress and President Obama can't agree on a budget."

² In February 2011, the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Obama do not agree on federal spending goals by March 4, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like the people in government who represent your views on the budget to do in this situation? Should they hold out for the basic budget plan they want, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they agree to a compromise budget plan, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

³ In August 1995 the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Clinton do not agree on federal spending goals this fall, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. How would you like the people in government who represent your point of view toward the budget to act in this situation — should they stand by their principles throughout the debate, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise in the debate, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

Q.6 CONTINUED...

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

There's a possibility the federal government might have to shut down in the next few days because the Clinton Administration and the Republicans in Congress can't agree on a plan to keep it running while they work on a new budget. Whose fault do you think this mainly is—Clinton's or the Republicans' in Congress?

<i>ABC News/Washington Post</i>	
Nov 10-13	
<u>1995</u>	
Clinton	27
Republicans	46
Both (VOL.)	20
Neither (VOL.)	2
No opinion	5

As you may know, the federal government has shut down many of its operations because the Clinton Administration and the Republicans in Congress have not agreed on a plan to keep it running while they work on a new budget. Whose fault do you think this mainly is—Clinton's or the Republicans' in Congress?

	<i>ABC News</i>	<i>ABC News/Washington Post</i>
	<u>Jan 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1995</u>
Clinton	25	24
Republicans	44	51
Both (VOL.)	24	20
Neither (VOL.)	3	1
No opinion	3	4

Q.7 THROUGH Q.73 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Yearly Totals								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁴	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

⁴ In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."