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GOP Widely Viewed as “More Extreme in Its Positions”

Public Wants Debt Ceiling Compromise, Expects a Deal Before Deadline

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GOP Widely Viewed as “More Extreme in Its Positions” Public Wants Debt Ceiling Compromise, Expects a Deal Before Deadline

The public overwhelmingly favors a compromise in the debt ceiling standoff. And even as negotiations aimed at resolving the issue show little progress, a majority thinks that Barack Obama and congressional Republicans will reach a deal before the Aug. 2 deadline on a possible government default.

Fully 68% say that lawmakers who share their views on this issue should compromise, even it means striking a deal they disagree with. Just 23% say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles, even if that leads to default.

There is broader support for compromise today than on the eve of a possible government shutdown earlier this year. In early April, 55% favored a compromise even if that resulted in a budget deal they disagreed with, while 36% wanted their leaders to stand by their principles even if it led to a shutdown.

Large majorities of Democrats (81%) and independents (69%) favor a compromise to avoid default, but Republicans are more divided: 53% favor a compromise, while 38% say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles even if it leads to a default.

Among all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 53% of those who agree with the Tea Party favor lawmakers standing by their principles even if it means the government goes into default. Just 24% of Republicans and GOP leaners who do not agree with the Tea Party express this view.

Substantial Support for Debt Ceiling Compromise

	July 20-24
<i>Lawmakers who share your views on this issue should ...</i>	%
Be willing to compromise, even if it means they strike a deal you disagree with	68
Stand by their principles, even it means the government goes into default	23
Don't know	8
	100

Most Think a Deal Will Happen

<i>Will Barack Obama and Republicans resolve this issue before Aug. 2 deadline?</i>	
Will resolve issue	56
Will not resolve issue	38
Don't know	3
	100

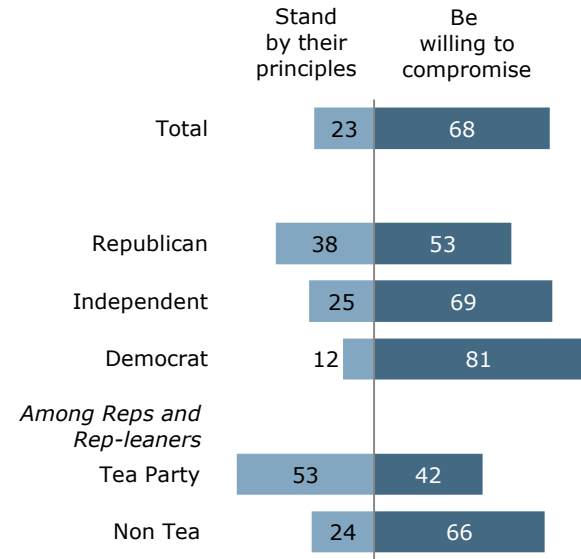
PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted July 20-24 among 1,501 adults, finds continued public optimism about prospects of a last-minute debt-ceiling deal. More than half (56%) say they think Obama and the Republicans will resolve the issue before Aug. 2. This is little changed from a *Washington Post*/ABC News survey conducted July 14-17 (54% will resolve issue).

Most Americans feel a personal stake in the efforts to resolve the debt ceiling impasse. Nearly two-thirds (65%) say their own personal finances would be affected by a failure to increase the government's ability to borrow; 32% say their finances would not be affected. More specifically, 45% are worried that a failure to meet the Aug. 2 deadline would harm their investments and retirement savings, and 46% are worried that they might lose government services and benefits that affect them personally.

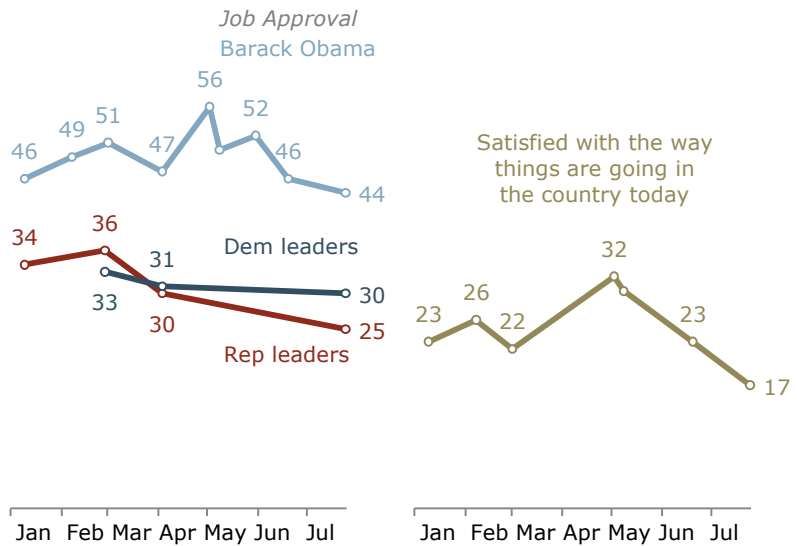
The survey finds that the ongoing stalemate over raising the debt ceiling may be taking a toll on views of national conditions. Just 17% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, down from 23% last month and the lowest measure since late 2008, during the financial crisis.

Tea Party Republicans Not Inclined Toward Compromise



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q32.

Public Mood Sours, Continued Criticism of Congressional Leaders



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q1,2,4.

Barack Obama’s job approval ratings remain mixed – 44% approve of his job performance while 48% disapprove. But Obama’s ratings are far less positive than they were in May, immediately after the death of Osama bin Laden (56% approve).

Just a quarter (25%) approve of the job that Republican leaders in Congress are doing, down 11 points since February. Ratings for Democratic congressional leaders (30% approve) are little changed from earlier this year.

Republicans hold a 10-point lead over the Democrats as the party better able to reduce the federal budget deficit (43% to 33%), while running about even with Democrats on taxes, jobs and Social Security. The GOP’s advantage on the deficit is larger than it was in May (three points), but about the same as in April (12 points).

However, Republicans are viewed much more negatively than the Democrats on several important traits and characteristics. Notably, 50% view the Republican Party as “more extreme in its positions.” Far fewer (35%) say this phrase better describes the Democratic Party. Majorities of Democrats (64%) and independents (51%) view the GOP as more extreme, as do about a third of Republicans (35%).

As was the case in April, the Democrats also lead by wide margins as the party more willing to work with political

leaders from the other party (by 25 points) and more concerned with the needs of typical Americans (by 21 points). Democrats continue to hold a smaller lead on honest governance (12 points).

GOP Leads on Deficit, But Is Seen as More Extreme

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Neither (vol.)	Both/ DK (vol.)	Advantage
<i>Which party can do better job of ...</i>	%	%	%	%	
Reducing budget deficit	43	33	9	15=100	R+10
Dealing w/ taxes	43	40	6	14=100	R+3
Improving job situation	39	39	7	14=100	0
Making Social Security financially sound	38	40	7	15=100	D+2
<i>Which party ...</i>					
Is more extreme in its positions	50	35	2	13=100	R+15
Can better manage the federal government	40	38	14	9=100	R+2
Is more influenced by special interests	39	37	1	23=100	R+2
Can bring about needed changes	36	43	9	11=100	D+7
Governs in more honest/ethical way	30	42	20	9=100	D+12
Is more concerned w/ needs of people like me	30	51	11	8=100	D+21
Is more willing to work w/ opposition leaders	26	51	12	10=100	D+25

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q26-27. Significant differences in **bolded colors**. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Despite the intense focus in Washington on the debt and deficit, more Americans continue to view the job situation as their biggest economic concern. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) cite the job situation as the national economic issue that most worries them; 29% cite the federal budget deficit, while smaller percentages say rising prices (15%) and problems in the financial and housing markets (11%) are their biggest economic worries. Even among Republicans, as many cite the job situation (34%) as the deficit (37%) as the biggest economic problem.

The public's views of the impact of large cuts in federal spending on the job situation have changed in recent months. Currently, as many say such cuts would help the job situation as hurt it (26% vs. 27%). In March, more saw cuts in spending as harmful rather than helpful (34% vs. 18%); the shift since March has come across partisan lines.

Yet the plurality view, held by 39%, is that cutting federal spending won't affect the job situation one way or the other.

In keeping with their desire to see compromise, there is no change in the public's view that the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit is through a combination of both cutting major programs *and* increasing taxes. Six-in-ten (60%) say that both are in order; just 19% say that the focus should be mostly on cutting major programs while even fewer (8%) say the focus should be mostly on raising taxes. The proportion supporting a mixed approach of funding cuts and tax increases is about the same as it was last December (65%).

Jobs Remain Top Concern, More Say Spending Cuts Would Help

	Mar 8-14	July 20-24	Change
<i>Economic issue that worries you most</i>			
	%	%	
Job situation	34	39	+5
Budget deficit	24	29	+5
Rising prices	28	15	-13
Financial/Housing mkts	10	11	-1
Other/Don't know	4	6	
	100	100	
<i>Major cuts in federal spending would ...</i>			
Help job situation	18	26	+8
Hurt job situation	34	27	-7
Not much of an effect	41	39	-2
Other/Don't know	7	8	
	100	100	

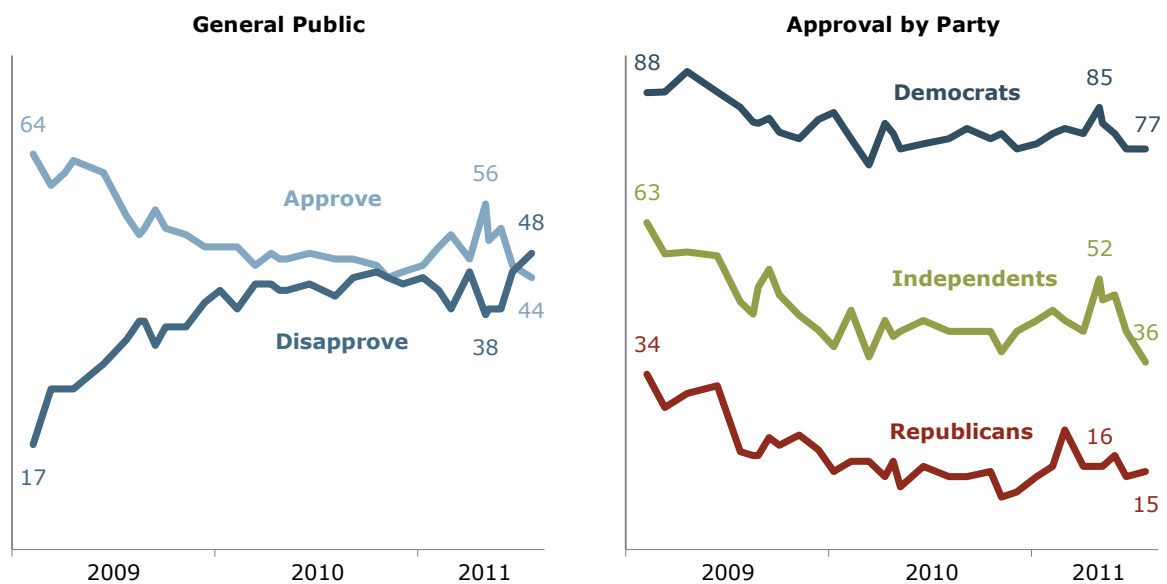
PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q7, Q28. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SECTION 1: VIEWS OF OBAMA, CONGRESS AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES

As views of national conditions worsen, Barack Obama's job ratings remain mixed: 48% disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president, while 44% approve. This is little changed from June (46% approve, 45% disapprove). In early May, immediately following the announcement of Osama bin Laden's death, 56% approved of Obama's job performance.

A large majority of Democrats (77%) continue to approve of Obama's job performance while a comparable majority of Republicans disapprove (79%). For the first time in Pew Research Center polling, a majority of independents (54%) disapprove of Obama's performance. Obama's approval among independents has slipped to just 36% from 42% last month and a recent high of 52% following the killing of bin Laden.

Mixed Ratings for Obama, Independent Views Turn Negative



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q1.

National satisfaction has also declined in recent months. In the current survey, just 17% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in this country today while 79% say they are dissatisfied. In May, somewhat more (30%) said they were satisfied with national conditions. That figure fell seven points to 23% in June and has fallen another six points in July. The current ratings are now at the lowest point since the financial crisis of 2008. In October of that year, just 11% expressed a positive view of national conditions.

Even More Negative Views of National Conditions

<i>Way things are going in country today ...</i>	May 5-8	June 15-19	July 20-24	May-July change
	%	%	%	
Satisfied	30	23	17	-13
Dissatisfied	62	73	79	+17
Don't know	8	4	4	
	100	100	100	

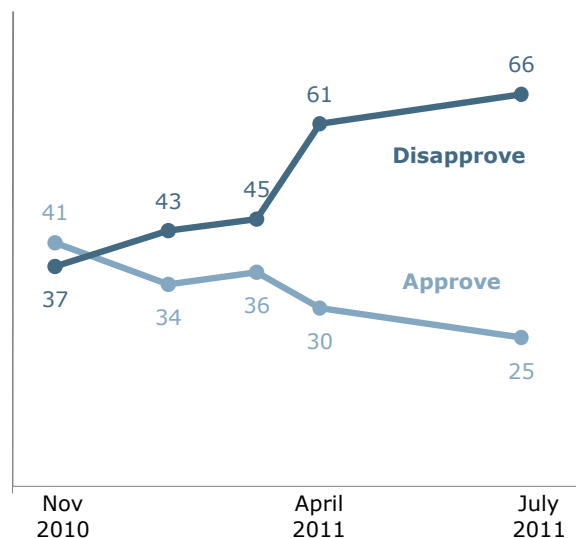
PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Only about a quarter of Democrats (27%), 14% of independents and just 8% of Republicans say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country. In May, 40% of Democrats, 32% of independents and 19% of Republicans were satisfied with national conditions.

Poor Ratings for Congressional Leaders

Just a quarter (25%) of the public approves of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing, while far more (66%) disapprove. Ratings of Republican leaders have declined in recent months and now stand near long-term lows. Shortly after the midterm elections in November 2010, about as many approved (41%) as disapproved (37%) of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future. Republican leaders' ratings turned negative in January and have declined further since then.

GOP Leaders' Job Rating Slides



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q4a.

Democrats give Republican leaders overwhelmingly negative job ratings (83% disapprove), as do independents (70% disapprove). A narrow majority of Republicans approve of the way GOP leaders are doing their job (54%), but nearly four-in-ten (38%) disapprove.

Republican and Republican leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party give GOP leaders mixed job ratings: 51% approve, but about as many disapprove (45%). Among Republicans and leaners who disagree with the Tea Party or have no opinion of the movement, there is less support for party leaders: 42% approve of their performance and 49% disapprove.

Job ratings for Democratic leaders in Congress are not much better than those of GOP leaders. Just 30% of the public approves of their job performance while twice as many (60%) disapprove. Ratings for Democratic Congressional leaders have shown little change in recent months. Nonetheless, approval ratings for the Democratic Party's leadership remain near all-time lows.

Democrats approve of their party's leaders by a 58%-35% margin. Majorities of both liberal Democrats (63%) and conservative and moderate Democrats (55%) approve of their leaders. Independents' views of Democratic leaders' job performance are about as negative as their views of Republican leaders – just 23% approve of the way Democratic leaders are doing their jobs while 65% disapprove.

Mixed Job Rating for GOP Leaders from Tea Party Republicans

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Total	25	66	10=100
Republican	54	38	9=100
Conservative	59	34	8=100
Moderate/Liberal	45	45	9=100
Democrat	10	83	7=100
Independent	19	70	11=100
Lean Republican	31	64	5=100
Lean Democratic	13	79	8=100
<i>Among Rep/Rep-leaners</i>			
Agree w/Tea Party	51	45	4=100
Disagree/No opinion	42	49	9=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q4a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Democratic Leaders' Job Ratings Also Negative

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Total	30	60	10=100
Republican	8	83	9=100
Democrat	58	35	8=100
Liberal	63	33	4=100
Cons/Mod	55	35	9=100
Independent	23	65	12=100
Lean Republican	10	87	4=100
Lean Democratic	42	47	11=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q4b. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Wide Partisan Divide in Confidence in Government

Most Americans (59%) say they have not too much (37%) or no confidence at all (22%) that the government in Washington will make progress on important problems over the next year. Only about four-in-ten (39%) say they have a lot of confidence (6%) or some confidence (33%). These views have declined slightly since last September, when 44% said they had at least some confidence in the government's abilities to make progress on major issues.

Democrats stand out for being far more optimistic than other groups about the government's ability to address important problems over the next year. Fully 62% have at least some confidence in the government's ability to address major problems over the next year while just 37% say they have not much or no confidence at all. By comparison, just 32% of independents and 24% of Republicans are confident the government in Washington will make progress on important issues. Among Republican and Republican-leaning independents, optimism is somewhat higher among those who do not agree with the Tea Party (29%) than it is among those who agree with the movement (17%).

Democrats Still Confident Gov't Can Make Progress on Problems

<i>Confidence gov't will make progress on important problems</i>	A lot/Some	Not much/None	DK
	%	%	%
Total	39	59	2=100
Republican	24	75	2=100
Democrat	62	37	1=100
Independent	32	67	1=100
<i>Among Rep/Rep-leaners</i>			
Agree w/Tea Party	17	82	1=100
Disagree/No opinion	29	70	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q5. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Parties at Parity on Most Issues

The public's views about which party can better handle several major issues have changed little since April. The GOP currently holds a 10-point advantage as the party better able to reduce the federal budget deficit (43% to 33%). The Republican advantage had been 12 points in April, but had narrowed to three points in May.

On three other issues – improving the job situation, making the Social Security system financially sound and dealing with taxes – neither party holds a significant advantage.

As in April, independents are much more likely to say Republicans could do a better job than Democrats at reducing the deficit (by 45% to 27%). The GOP also holds a 12-point lead among independents as the party better able to improve the job situation (42% to 30%). This represents a change from April, when independents were divided over which party could better improve the job situation (38% Republican Party, 35% Democratic Party). Independents are split over which party can do a better job of making the Social Security system financially sound and dealing with taxes.

GOP Leads on Deficit; Parties Even on Jobs, Taxes, Social Security

<i>Which party could do a better job...</i>	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/ Neither/ DK	Rep adv
Reducing deficit	%	%	%	
July 2011	43	33	24=100	+10
May 2011	41	38	21=100	+3
April 2011	46	34	21=100	+12
October 2010	35	28	37=100	+7
April 2010	38	35	27=100	+3
August 2009	35	36	29=100	-1
Dealing with taxes				
July 2011	43	40	18=100	+3
October 2010	36	35	28=100	+1
September 2010	40	34	25=100	+6
August 2009	38	37	26=100	+1
Improving job situation				
July 2011	39	39	21=100	0
April 2011	39	39	22=100	0
October 2010	35	31	34=100	+4
April 2010	36	37	27=100	-1
Making Social Security sound				
July 2011	38	40	22=100	-2
April 2011	39	39	22=100	0
September 2010	35	35	31=100	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q26. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Democrats Seen as More Willing to Work with Opponents

Democrats continue to hold substantial leads over Republicans on several traits, including willingness to cooperate with opponents, empathy and honest governance. And far more people view the GOP as more extreme in its positions than say that about the Democratic Party.

About twice as many say the Democrats are more willing to work with political leaders from the other party than say that about the GOP (51% to 26%). In April, the Democrats held a 17-point lead on this trait (49% to 32%).

The Democrats also continue to hold double-digit leads on concern for “people like me” (21 points) and governing in a more honest and ethical way (12 points).

For almost two years, Democrats and Republicans have run about even as the party better able to manage the federal government. In the new survey, 40% say the Republican Party could better manage the government while about as many (38%) say the Democratic Party. Roughly equal percentages also say each party is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests (39% Republican Party, 37% Democratic Party).

Democrats Maintain Lead on Cooperation, Empathy, Honesty

<i>Which party...</i>	Dem Party	Rep Party	Both/ Neither DK	Dem adv
Is more willing to work w/opponents	%	%	%	
July 2011	51	26	22=100	+25
April 2011	49	32	18=100	+17
Is more concerned about people like me				
July 2011	51	30	19=100	+21
April 2011	54	32	15=100	+22
October 2010	46	36	19=100	+10
June 2010	50	34	16=100	+16
Governs in more honest & ethical way				
July 2011	42	30	29=100	+12
April 2011	42	33	25=100	+9
October 2010	35	35	29=100	0
June 2010	41	31	28=100	+10
Can bring needed changes				
July 2011	43	36	20=100	+7
April 2011	44	41	15=100	+3
October 2010	41	35	23=100	+6
June 2010	45	33	22=100	+12
Can better manage the government				
July 2011	38	40	23=100	-2
April 2011	39	41	19=100	-2
October 2010	36	43	21=100	-7
June 2010	37	41	22=100	-4
Is more influenced by special interests				
July 2011	37	39	24=100	-2
April 2011	34	44	22=100	-10
February 2010	32	40	27=100	-8
Is more extreme in its positions				
July 2011	35	50	15=100	-15

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q27. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Young, Well Educated See GOP as More Extreme

When asked which political party is more extreme in its positions, 50% say the Republican Party while 35% say the Democratic Party. While there are wide partisan differences in these opinions there also are age and educational differences.

Majorities of those younger than 30 (60%) and those 30 to 49 (54%) say the Republican Party is more extreme in its positions. That compares with only about four-in-ten of those older than 50 (42%). College graduates (59%) and those with some college experience (55%) are more likely than those with less education to view the Republican Party as more extreme.

This question divides Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who support the Tea Party from those who disagree or have no opinion of the movement. Nearly two-thirds (66%) of Republican Tea Party supporters say the Democratic Party is more extreme in its positions, while just 21% say that about the GOP. Those who disagree with the Tea Party or have no opinion about it are about evenly divided: 43% say the Republican Party is more extreme, while 40% name the Democratic Party.

Which Party Is More Extreme In Its Positions?

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/Neither/DK
	%	%	%
Total	50	35	15=100
18-29	60	27	13=100
30-49	54	32	14=100
50-64	43	43	14=100
65+	39	38	23=100
College grad+	59	30	11=100
Some college	55	32	13=100
HS or less	41	40	19=100
Republican	35	50	15=100
Democrat	64	30	7=100
Independent	51	32	18=100
<i>Among Rep/Rep leaners</i>			
Agree w/ Tea Party	21	66	13=100
Disagree/No opinion	43	40	17=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q27d. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SECTION 2: THE DEBT AND DEFICIT DEBATE

A week ahead of the Aug. 2 debt-ceiling deadline, the public overwhelmingly wants political leaders in Washington to compromise on the issue. About two-thirds (68%) say that lawmakers who share their views should be willing to compromise, even if it means striking a deal they disagree with. Only 23% say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles, even if that leads to a government default.

And even though negotiations about raising the debt limit have continued to stall, a majority (56%) thinks that Barack Obama and congressional Republicans will reach a deal before Aug. 2, while 38% think the issue will not be resolved in time. This is little changed from a *Washington Post*/ABC News survey conducted a week ago, in which 54% expected a deal and 43% did not.

Half of Americans (50%) say they have heard a lot about the Aug. 2 debt limit deadline, and attention levels are similar across party lines. But there are sizable partisan and ideological divisions when it comes to how lawmakers should approach the final deliberations. Fully 81% of Democrats say the lawmakers they agree with should compromise in the debt ceiling debate, even if it means an imperfect outcome. Roughly two-thirds (69%) of independents say the same. About half (53%) of Republicans want to see their leaders show a willingness to compromise, while 38% say the leaders they agree with should stand by their principles, even if it means a government default.

Nearly half of conservative Republicans (47%) say lawmakers who share their views should stick to principles despite the threat of a default; only 21% of moderate and liberal Republicans agree. There is no comparable ideological divide among Democrats. Liberal

Most Support Compromise on Plan to Raise Federal Debt Limit

<i>Heard about possibility gov't might go into default if no deal on debt limit?</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	50	52	53	49
A little	32	33	34	30
Nothing at all	16	13	11	20
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

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

Be willing to compromise, even if they strike a deal you disagree with	68	53	81	69
Stand by their principles, even if it means the gov't goes into default	23	38	12	25
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

Will Obama & Reps resolve this issue before Aug. 2 deadline?

Will resolve	56	57	63	52
Will not resolve	38	37	31	41
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q31-33, Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

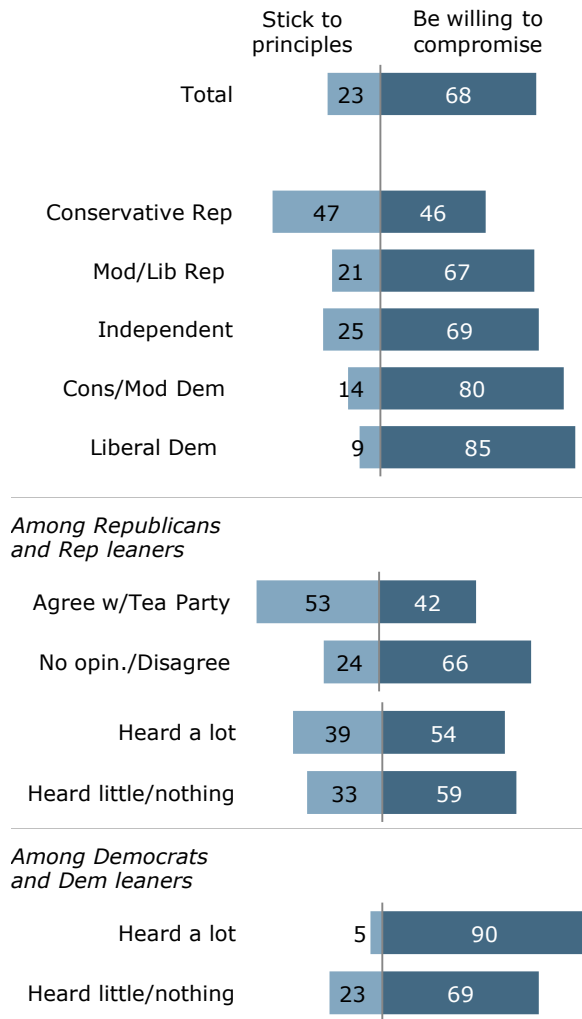
Democrats are about as likely as conservative and moderate Democrats to say lawmakers should compromise on the debt ceiling even if it means striking a deal they disagree with.

More than half (53%) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party want lawmakers to stand by their principles, even it means the government goes into default. Only 24% of Republicans and Republican leaners who do not agree with the Tea Party express this view.

Attentive Democrats are almost unanimous in their support for compromise to avoid a government default. Fully 90% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents who have heard a lot about the possibility of a default if an agreement is not reached say lawmakers should compromise on this issue. By contrast, barely half (54%) of Republicans and Republican leaners who have heard a lot about the debt limit deadline support compromise. Instead, 39% say their leaders should stand by their principles.

Despite the continued deadlock in Washington, attentive Americans are more optimistic that some kind of deal will be reached before Aug. 2. Two-thirds (67%) of people who have heard a lot about the issue say Obama and the Republicans will come to some kind of resolution, compared with 46% of those who have heard little or nothing about it.

Resistance to Compromise among Conservatives, Tea Party Backers



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q31-32.

Most Say Government Default Will Affect Their Finances

Roughly two-thirds of Americans (65%) believe that their own personal finances would be affected if a deal is not struck by Aug. 2. There is little difference across party lines in this view.

More specifically, 46% of Americans are very or somewhat worried that if the government cannot borrow more money to fund its operations and pay its debts it would lead to the suspension of services and benefits that affect them personally. This concern is higher among women, minorities, low-income Americans, and people over age 50. Most who are worried cite the possible loss of Social Security and Medicare benefits as their greatest fear.

Personal Finances Seen at Risk if Deadline Is Not Met

	Not meeting Aug 2 deadline would affect your finances	Very/somewhat worried about...	
		Losing gov't services & benefits	Harm to savings & investments
	%	%	%
Total	65	46	45
Men	60	36	39
Women	69	55	49
White	63	44	42
Black	65	53	47
Hispanic	72	52	58
18-29	55	35	34
30-49	64	45	44
50-64	68	51	49
65+	71	53	50
\$75,000 or more	62	38	46
\$30,000-74,999	61	43	42
Less than \$30,000	71	59	47
Republican	63	39	43
Democrat	69	58	52
Independent	65	44	43
<i>Among Rep/Rep leaners</i>			
Agree w/ Tea Party	58	32	35
No opinion/Disagree	65	44	46

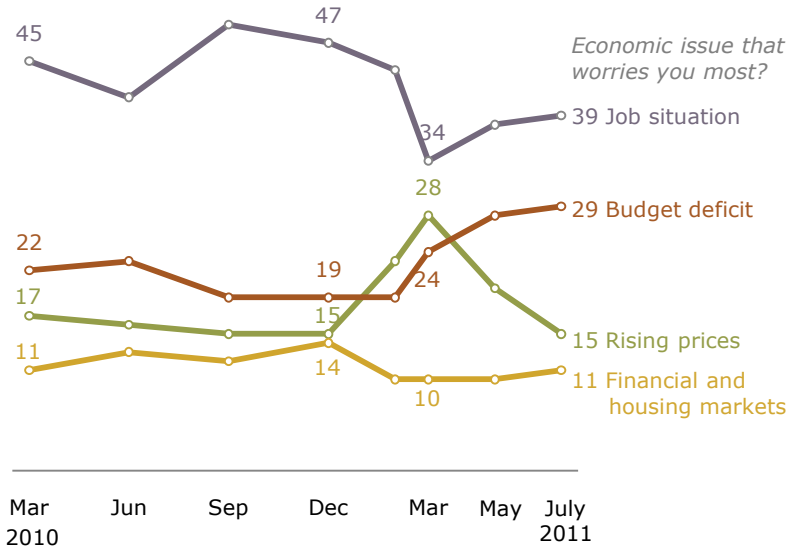
PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q34-35. Whites and Blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

About the same number (45%) are very or somewhat worried that missing the Aug. 2 deadline would harm their investments and retirement savings.

Jobs Still Trump Deficit as Top Economic Worry

Even as the debt has taken center stage in Washington over the last few weeks, more Americans continue to say the job situation is the national economic issue they are most worried about. About four-in-ten (39%) say the job situation is their top worry, while 29% cite the budget deficit. Just 15% say they are primarily concerned about rising prices and 11% say problems in the housing and financial markets. The relative importance of each of these concerns among the public is little changed since May, when the deficit overtook prices as the second highest-ranked concern.

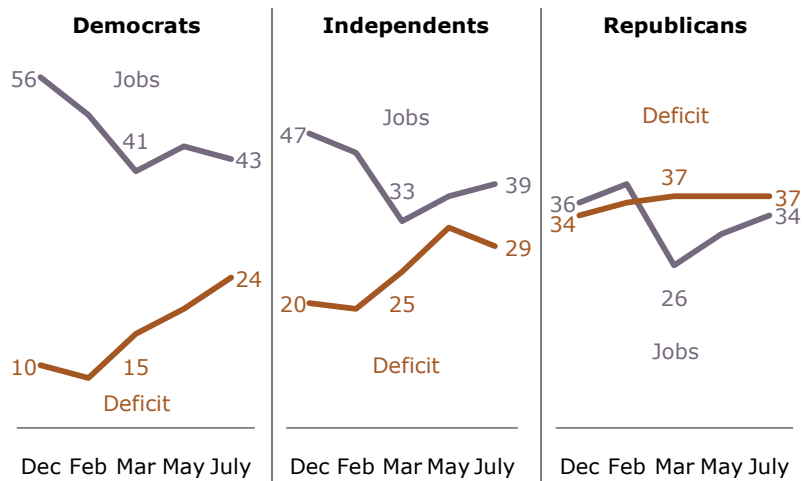
Deficit Worries Still High, but Job Situation Remains the Bigger Concern



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q7.

Jobs remain the top economic concern for both Democrats (43%) and independents (39%), while Republicans are about as likely to cite the deficit (37%) as to say jobs (34%). But concern about the deficit is rising among Democrats and independents. In December, just 10% of Democrats cited the deficit as their top worry; today, 24% do so. Similarly, 29% of independents now say they are most worried about the budget deficit, up from 20% in December.

More Concern about Deficit Among Democrats



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q7. Percent saying rising prices, financial and housing markets, other, none and don't know not shown.

Most Support Combination of Spending Cuts, Tax Increases

The public remains skeptical that lawmakers will make headway in reducing the budget deficit over the next several years: Just 39% say the country will have made significant progress in reducing the deficit five years from now. At the same time, a majority (60%) say that the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit involves both cutting major programs and increasing taxes. Just 19% say the best approach is to focus mostly on cutting major programs; 8% say the focus mostly should be on increasing taxes.

Clear majorities of Democrats (67%) and independents (63%) say the best way to reducing the deficit includes both major program cuts and tax increases. By contrast, Republicans are more divided: 46% favor an approach that includes both tax increases and program cuts, while 39% say the best approach mostly focuses on program cuts.

Within the Republican coalition there is a substantial division of

opinion. A majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party movement (52%) say deficit reduction should come mostly through major program cuts; just 24% of those who do not agree or have no opinion of the Tea Party say the same.

Ideological Divisions Over Best Approach to Deficit

<i>What is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit?</i>	Cut major programs	Increase taxes	Combination of both	Other/DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	19	8	60	14=100
Republican	39	3	46	12=100
Conservative Rep	46	4	39	12=100
Mod/Lib Rep	26	2	59	12=100
Independent	18	5	63	14=100
Democrat	5	16	67	11=100
Liberal Dem	8	20	64	8=100
Cons/Mod Dem	4	14	70	12=100
<i>Among Reps/Rep leaners</i>				
Agree w/ Tea Party	52	1	34	12=100
No opinion/Disagree	24	4	60	12=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q24. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Will Federal Spending Cuts Help or Hurt the Job Situation?

A plurality (39%) of Americans say that if the federal government makes major cuts in federal spending in order to reduce the budget deficit, there would not be much of an effect on the job situation. The remainder of the public is divided: About as many say these spending cuts would hurt (27%) as help (26%) the job situation. In March, more said cuts would hurt the job situation than said they would help (34% hurt, 18% help).

Although pluralities of Democrats and independents say potential spending cuts would have little effect on the job situation, both groups are about equally likely to say these cuts would help the job situation as to say they would hurt. In March, Democrats were more likely to say cuts would hurt the employment situation.

Republicans remain more likely than either Democrats or independents to say cuts would help the job situation (34% say this, compared with 24% of Democrats and 23% of independents). And more Republicans now say this than did so in March (up nine points).

No Consensus about Impact of Spending Cuts on Job Situation

<i>Impact of major spending cuts on job situation...</i>	Help %	Hurt %	Not have much effect %	Other/DK %
Total				
July	26	27	39	8=100
March	18	34	41	7=100
Change	+8	-7	-2	
Republican				
July	34	19	39	8=100
March	25	27	41	6=100
Change	+9	-8	-2	
Democrat				
July	24	30	40	5=100
March	18	39	35	8=100
Change	+6	-9	+5	
Independent				
July	23	28	37	12=100
March	15	34	45	6=100
Change	+8	-6	-8	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 20-24, 2011. Q28.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted July 20-24, 2011 among a national sample of 1,501 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (916 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 585 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 254 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 and Spanish. 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	1,501	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	389	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	464	5.5 percentage points
Independents	575	5.0 percentage points
<i>Among Republicans and Republican leaners:</i>		
Agree with Tea Party	305	7.0 percentage points
Disagree/No opinion	329	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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JULY 2011 POLITICAL AND MEDIA SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
July 20-24, 2011
N=1,501

RANDOMIZE Q.1 WITH Q.2/Q.3 BLOCK**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

RANDOMIZE Q.1 WITH Q.2/Q.3 BLOCK**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	December, 2008	13	83	4
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	August, 2008	21	74	5
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	July, 2008	19	74	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	June, 2008	19	76	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	March, 2008	22	72	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	October, 2007	28	66	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	February, 2007	30	61	9
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7				

¹ In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	February, 2001	46	43	11
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	September, 2000	51	41	8
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
July, 2006	30	65	5	April, 2000	48	43	9
May, 2006*	29	65	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
March, 2006	32	63	5	January, 1999	53	41	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	February, 1998	59	37	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
December, 2004	39	54	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
May, 2004	33	61	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
December, 2003	44	47	9	April, 1995	23	74	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
August, 2003	40	53	7	March, 1994	24	71	5
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>	October, 1993	22	73	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	May, 1993	22	71	7
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1993	39	50	11
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	January, 1992	28	68	4
May, 2002	44	44	12	November, 1991	34	61	5
March, 2002	50	40	10	<i>Gallup: Late Feb, 1991</i>	66	31	3
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	August, 1990	47	48	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	May, 1990	41	54	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	January, 1989	45	50	5
March, 2001	47	45	8	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

QUESTION 3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Jan 5-9, 2011 ²	34	43	22
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12

² Question wording for Nov. 4-7, 2010, and Jan. 5-9, 2011, was: "Do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

Q.4 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
December, 1996 ³	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 ⁴	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
November, 2006 ⁵	50	21	29

³ From December, 1994, through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?".

⁴ In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?".

Q.4 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

ASK ALL:

Q.5 How much confidence do you have that the government in Washington, D.C., will make progress over the next year on the most important problems facing the country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

<u>Jul 20-24</u> <u>2011</u>		<u>Sep 23-26</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>Jun 24-27</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>May 13-16</u> <u>2010</u>
6	A lot of confidence	10	10	10
33	Some confidence	34	32	32
37	Not much confidence [OR]	33	32	31
22	No confidence at all	20	23	25
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3	2

NO QUESTION 6**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.7 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>The job situation</u>	<u>The federal budget deficit</u>	<u>Rising prices</u>	<u>Problems in the financial and housing markets</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>None/not worried about any</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	29	15	11	3	1	2
May 25-30, 2011	38	28	20	10	2	*	2
Mar 8-14, 2011	34	24	28	10	3	*	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	44	19	23	10	1	1	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	47	19	15	14	1	1	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	19	15	12	2	1	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	41	23	16	13	3	1	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	45	22	17	11	2	*	2

⁵ Question wording in November, 2006, and December, 1994, was: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?".

**QUESTIONS 8-9, 12-16 AND 18-21 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 10-11, 17 OR 22-23**

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

- Q.24 In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on **[RANDOMIZE: Cutting major programs / Increasing taxes]** mostly focus on [increasing taxes / cutting major programs] or should we do a combination of both?

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Apr 7-10 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>
19	Cutting major programs	20	16
8	Increasing taxes	6	4
60	Combination of both	64	65
1	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit (VOL.)	*	1
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	13

ASK ALL:

- Q.25 Looking ahead five years or so, do you think we will have made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Apr 21-25 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	Feb <u>1989</u>
39	Yes	31	37	40
51	No	55	52	46
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	11	14

RANDOMIZE Q26 AND Q.27

ASK ALL:

- Q.26 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE.]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]?**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u> <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=986]⁶:					
a.F1 Reducing the federal budget deficit					
Jul 20-24, 2011	43	33	6	9	9
May 25-30, 2011	41	38	4	9	8
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7
May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
Early October, 2005 ⁷	29	47	6	10	8
June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15

ASK ALL FORM 2 [N=515]⁸:

a.F2 Dealing with the federal budget deficit					
Jul 22-24, 2011	43	37	5	6	8

⁶ For July 20-21, 2011 question was asked of all respondents. For July 22-24, the question was only asked of form 1 respondents.

⁷ In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

⁸ Question was asked only July 22-24, 2011.

Q.26 CONTINUED...

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Party	Party	equally	Neither	DK/Ref
ASK ALL:						
b.	Improving the job situation					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	39	39	5	7	9
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	39	10	6	6
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	31	8	13	13
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	39	41	6	8	7
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	37	8	9	10
	September, 2006	29	47	6	5	13
	March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7
	October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8
ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=986]⁹:						
c.F1	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	38	40	5	7	10
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	39	9	6	7
	Sep 16-19, 2010	35	35	9	11	11
	September, 2006	26	46	4	11	13
	September, 2005	33	45	6	9	7
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	31	42	6	9	12
	Early September, 2002	30	38	8	10	14
	May, 2002	32	38	--	9	21
	January, 2002	28	40	--	6	26
	May, 2001 ¹⁰	35	43	6	5	11
	January, 2001	36	44	--	7	13
	June, 1999	33	41	4	9	13
	January, 1999	27	46	--	7	20
	Early September, 1998	37	42	7	5	9
	May, 1990	28	41	--	16	15
ASK ALL FORM 2 [N=515]¹¹:						
c.F2	Dealing with the Social Security system					
	Jul 22-24, 2011	37	42	7	5	9
ASK ALL:						
d.	Dealing with taxes					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	43	40	4	6	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	35	7	9	12
	Sep 16-19, 2010	40	34	8	8	9
	Aug 27-30, 2009	38	37	4	11	11
	February, 2008	37	49	2	5	7
	October, 2006	32	40	5	7	16
	September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9

⁹ For July 20-21, 2011 question was asked of all respondents. For July 22-24, the question was only asked of form 1 respondents.

¹⁰ For May 2001, June 1999, Early September 1998 and May 1990, the question was worded, "Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas ... keeping Social Security financially sound?"

¹¹ Question was asked only July 22-24, 2011.

RANDOMIZE Q26 AND Q.27**ASK ALL:**

Q.27 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=748]:						
a.F1	Can better manage the federal government					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	40	38	2	14	7
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	39	2	8	9
	Oct 13-18, 2010	43	36	2	11	8
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	41	3	8	7
	Jun 16-20, 2010	41	37	3	12	7
	Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
	Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
	October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
	March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
	Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
	April, 2006 ¹²	35	39	3	15	8
	January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
	Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
	July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
	Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
	August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
	July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
	April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
	July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
	May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
	July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
	May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9
	May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
	January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
	May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10
b.F1	Is more concerned with the needs of people like me					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	30	51	2	11	6
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	54	2	5	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	46	2	8	9
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	33	53	2	7	5
	Jun 16-20, 2010	34	50	2	9	5
	Feb 3-9, 2010	31	51	3	8	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	27	51	4	10	7
	October, 2007	25	54	4	8	9
	March, 2007	26	55	2	7	10
	Early October, 2006	27	55	3	8	7
	April, 2006 ¹³	28	52	3	10	7
	Early October, 2005	30	52	5	7	6
	July, 2004	30	50	5	8	7
	Early September, 1998	31	46	5	9	9
	March, 1998	30	51	4	8	7
	August, 1997	31	49	3	10	7
	July, 1996	35	50	2	7	6
	April, 1995	39	49	2	7	3
	July, 1994	35	49	4	8	4

¹² In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."

¹³ In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Is concerned with the needs of people like me."

Q.27 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1990	21	42	12	18	7
May, 1988	23	51	8	11	7
January, 1988	22	47	11	13	7
c.F1 Governs in a more honest and ethical way					
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	42	2	20	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	42	3	14	8
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	35	4	16	9
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	41	4	18	6
August 27-30, 2009	26	42	4	20	9
October, 2007	26	40	6	19	9
March, 2007	25	43	4	18	10
Early October, 2006	27	41	4	18	10
April, 2006 ¹⁴	28	36	4	23	9
January, 2006	30	37	4	19	10
Early October, 2005	30	40	6	18	6
July, 2004	34	37	5	15	9
Early September, 1998	31	28	6	23	12
March, 1998	28	32	7	24	9
August, 1997	28	33	5	26	8
July, 1996	38	37	2	18	5
April, 1995	35	36	4	19	6
July, 1994	32	35	6	21	6
ASK ALL:					
d. Is more extreme in its positions					
Jul 20-24, 2011	50	35	4	2	9
ASK ALL FORM 2 [N=753]:					
e.F2 Can bring about the kind of changes the country needs					
Jul 20-24, 2011	36	43	3	9	8
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	44	2	8	5
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	41	3	10	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	35	46	4	8	6
Jun 16-20, 2010	33	45	3	12	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	34	46	4	9	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	5	13	9
October, 2007	26	48	5	11	10
March, 2007	26	52	4	9	9
Early October, 2006	28	48	4	10	10
April, 2006	32	47	2	12	7
Early October, 2005	32	48	4	9	7
July, 2004	35	46	3	7	9
Early September, 1998	34	40	7	8	11
March, 1998	32	45	7	8	8
August, 1997	38	40	4	11	7
July, 1996	39	46	2	7	6
April, 1995	51	34	4	7	4
July, 1994	39	42	4	10	5
May, 1993	30	49	2	10	9
July, 1992	24	47	2	16	11
May, 1990	27	31	13	18	11
May, 1988	27	43	9	11	10
January, 1988	28	37	14	11	10
May, 1987	26	36	14	14	10

14

In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Governs in an honest and ethical way."

Q.27 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
f.F2	Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	39	37	12	1	11
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	44	34	11	2	9
	Feb 3-9, 2010	40	32	14	2	11
	Aug 27-30, 2009	37	31	17	3	12
	March, 2007	40	30	15	1	14
	Early October, 2006	41	27	16	2	14
	April, 2006	45	28	14	2	11
g.F2	Is more willing to work with political leaders from the other party					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	26	51	1	12	9
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	49	2	10	6

ASK ALL:

Q.28 If the government makes major cuts in federal spending in an effort to reduce the budget deficit, do you think these cuts would **[RANDOMIZE: help the job situation/hurt the job situation]**, or not have much of an effect either way?

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u> ¹⁵
26	Help	18
27	Hurt	34
39	Not much of an effect either way	41
1	Mixed effect (VOL.)	1
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

NO QUESTIONS 29-30**ASK ALL:**

Q.31 How much, if anything, have you heard about the possibility that the federal government might go into default if Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a plan to raise the federal debt limit by August second? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>	
50	A lot
32	A little [OR]
16	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

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.) DK/Ref
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	42	25	2
Feb 24-27, 2011 ¹⁶	37	34	29	*
Feb 17-20, 2011	21	35	44	*

¹⁵ In March 2011, question read "If the government makes major cuts in federal spending this year in an effort to reduce the budget deficit..."

¹⁶ 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."

ASK ALL:

Q.32 What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

Jul 20-24
2011

23	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government goes into default [OR]
68	Should they be willing to compromise, even if that means they strike a deal you disagree with
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*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**]*

Mar 30-Apr 3
2011

36	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down [OR]
55	Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Gallup
Feb 2011¹⁷ Aug 1995¹⁸

32	35
60	60
8	5

ASK ALL:

Q.33 Just your best guess, do you think Barack Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline?

Jul 20-24
2011

56	Will
38	Will not
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ABC/Wash Post
Jul 14-17
2011¹⁹

54
43
3

ASK ALL:

Q.34 If the government cannot borrow more money after August second to fund its operations and pay its debts, do you think it would affect your own personal financial situation, or not?

Jul 20-24
2011

65	Would
32	Would not
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

¹⁷ 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?"

¹⁸ 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?"

¹⁹ ABC News/The Washington Post question read "Just your best guess, do you think Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline the administration has set for raising the debt limit?"

ASK ALL:

Q.34 If the government cannot borrow more money after August second to fund its operations and pay its debts, do you think it would affect your own personal financial situation, or not?

ASK IF WOULD AFFECT PERSONALLY (IF Q34=1):

Q.35 How worried are you, if at all, that not raising the debt limit by August second would **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? **[READ OPTIONS]**

BASED ON TOTAL:

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not worried at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Would not affect personally/DK</i>
a. Lead to the suspension of government services and benefits that affect you personally Jul 20-24, 2011	23	23	10	8	1	35
b. Harm your own investments and retirement savings Jul 20-24, 2011	23	22	9	10	1	35

IF VERY/SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT GOVERNMENT REDUCTIONS (Q.35a=1, 2) ASK IMMEDIATELY [N=700]:

Q.36 What government services or benefits are you most worried about? **[OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]**

Jul 20-24
2011

52	Social Security
20	Medicare
7	Health/Medical care (general)
6	Unemployment/Jobs
6	Medicaid
5	Disability/SSI
5	Education/Tuition/Student loans
5	Public assistance/Welfare/Food stamps/Other services for poor
3	Everything
3	Military/Defense
2	Retirement/Pensions
2	Veterans benefits/VA
2	Housing
1	Local (police, fire, garbage collection, etc.)
1	Childcare/Children's health
1	US credit/Financial markets/Investments
1	Services for seniors (general)
1	Federal salaries and jobs
1	State budgets
1	Parks and recreation
10	Other
10	Don't know/Refused

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

**QUESTIONS 37-38, 41-42, 45-49, 52-54, 56-57 AND 60-62 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 43-44, 50-51, 55, 58-59**

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.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
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
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
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	--	--	--	--	--

Q.64 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

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?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
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 ²⁰	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

²⁰ 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."