

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000**

PEW.1-PEW.5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Next...

PEW.6 As you may know, political leaders are debating various ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt. Please tell me if you would approve or disapprove of each of the following. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** Would you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Would you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt?]**¹

	-----APPROVE-----			-----DISAPPROVE-----			(VOL.)
	Strongly	App-	App-	Strongly	Dis-	Dis-	
	<u>Net</u>	<u>rove</u>	<u>rove</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>approve</u>	<u>approve</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Reduce federal funding for programs that help lower-income Americans							
September 22-25, 2011	41	12	28	55	20	35	4
May 25-30, 2011	40	--	--	54	--	--	6
b. Reduce military commitments overseas							
September 22-25, 2011	66	26	40	29	9	20	4
May 25-30, 2011	65	--	--	30	--	--	6
c. Reduce federal funding to states for things like education and roads							
September 22-25, 2011	32	10	22	66	30	36	2
May 25-30, 2011	23	--	--	73	--	--	4
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	--	--	71	--	--	4
d. Limit tax deductions for large corporations							
September 22-25, 2011	56	25	31	39	14	26	5
May 25-30, 2011	62	--	--	34	--	--	4
e. Raise the income tax rate on incomes over \$250,000 a year							
September 22-25, 2011	67	33	34	29	10	20	4
May 25-30, 2011	66	--	--	31	--	--	3
f. Making changes to the Social Security and Medicare programs							
September 22-25, 2011	49	16	32	45	19	27	6

¹ In December 2010, question began, "Thinking about ways to reduce the federal budget deficit..." and in May 2011, the question began, "Thinking about ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt..." In December, 2010 and May, 2011 respondents were not asked whether they strongly approve/disapprove.

ASK ALL:

PEW.7 How much confidence do you have in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** to do the right thing when it comes to dealing with the federal budget deficit – a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		A great <u>deal</u>	A fair <u>amount</u>	Not too <u>much</u>	No confidence <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Barack Obama					
	September 22-25, 2011	18	34	21	25	2
	May 25-30, 2011	22	33	22	21	2
	Dec 1-5, 2010	19	34	20	24	4
b.	Republican leaders in Congress					
	September 22-25, 2011	5	30	31	31	4
	May 25-30, 2011	7	40	31	20	2
	Dec 1-5, 2010	6	34	29	27	4
c.	Democratic leaders in Congress					
	September 22-25, 2011	10	33	29	24	3
	May 25-30, 2011	12	39	28	18	3
	Dec 1-5, 2010	9	33	28	24	5

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.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
September 22-25, 2011	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	
	23	30	39	4	*	3
						14
						1

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?

			(VOL.) No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
September 22-25, 2011	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>				
	19	29	46	2	3	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
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 ²	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

² 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."