

P1. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a strong Democrat, not very strong Democrat, strong Republican, not very strong Republican, and independent, or some other political party? [IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Strong Democrat .....	26%
Weak Democrat .....	15
Independent / Closer to the Democrats .....	8
Independent .....	13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans .....	5
Weak Republican .....	13
Strong Republican .....	20
DEMOCRAT (NET) .....	41%
INDEPENDENT (NET) .....	26
REPUBLICAN (NET) .....	33
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET) .....	49%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET) .....	38

Q1C. Some people say that addressing the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities. Do you agree or disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? [IF AGREE] And do you strongly or just somewhat agree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? [IF DISAGREE] And do you strongly or just somewhat disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? [IF DONT KNOW] If you had to choose, would you lean toward agreeing or disagreeing that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities?

	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Jul 23</u>	<u>Jun 23</u>	<u>May 23</u>	<u>Apr 23</u>	<u>Mar 23</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>Jan 23</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>	<u>Nov 22</u>	<u>Oct 22</u>	<u>Sept 22</u>
Strongly agree .....	52%	54%	49%	64%	57%	57%	54%	57%	52%	51%	48%	51%
Somewhat agree .....	28	27	29	20	23	23	26	25	24	26	24	24
Somewhat disagree .....	12	12	11	8	12	11	14	11	16	16	17	16
Strongly disagree .....	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	5	5	6	5
Dont know/Refused .....	4	3	6	5	5	5	3	4	4	3	5	5
AGREE (NET) .....	80%	81	79	85	80	80	80	82	76	77	72	74
DISAGREE (NET) .....	16	16	15	11	15	15	17	14	20	20	23	21

Q2C. Thinking about our national debt over the last few years, would you say your level of concern about our national debt has: [IF NO CHANGE/DONT KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say that your level of concern about our national debt has probably increased a little or probably decreased a little over the last few years?

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Increased a lot .....	53%	52%	47%	58%	54%	54%	50%	51%	51%	50%	51%	52%
Increased a little .....	31	32	34	29	28	28	32	31	29	28	29	29
Decreased a little .....	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	6	7	4	6
Decreased a lot .....	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3
No change .....	8	8	11	6	9	8	9	8	10	10	10	8
Dont know/Refused .....	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2
INCREASED (NET) .....	84%	83	81	87	82	82	82	82	79	78	80	81
DECREASED (NET) .....	6	7	6	5	6	7	7	7	8	10	7	9

Q3C. Thinking about our national debt over the next few years, do you expect the problem to get: [IF THE SAME/DONT KNOW] If you had to choose, do you think the national debt problem will probably get a little better or probably get a little worse over the next few years?

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Much better.....	4%	7%	5%	6%	5%	8%	9%	7%	8%	8%	7%	9%
Somewhat better .....	21	19	21	20	18	21	20	22	19	21	16	22
Somewhat worse.....	33	37	35	33	32	31	30	33	30	28	32	28
Much worse .....	35	30	32	35	37	33	34	33	37	36	38	35
No change .....	3	3	3	3	4	2	4	2	3	3	3	2
Dont know/Refused.....	3	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	2	3	5	3
BETTER (NET).....	25%	26	26	26	24	29	29	29	28	30	23	31
WORSE (NET).....	68	68	67	68	69	64	65	66	67	64	69	64

Q4C. When it comes to addressing our national debt, would you say things in the United States are heading in the right direction or do you think things are off on the wrong track? [IF NONE/DONT KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say that things in the United States are probably heading in the right direction or probably off on the wrong track when it comes to addressing our national debt?

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Right direction - Strongly....	6%	8%	7%	6%	8%	12%	11%	9%	10%	12%	9%	13%
Right direction - Somewhat....	23	23	23	18	20	20	20	20	21	20	19	20
Wrong track - Somewhat.....	27	26	26	26	27	23	25	27	27	24	25	22
Wrong track - Strongly .....	42	40	38	46	42	41	40	40	39	41	43	42
Neither/Mixed .....	*	1	1	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dont know/Refused.....	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	2	2	3	2
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)..	29%	31	29	24	27	32	31	29	31	32	28	33
WRONG TRACK (NET).....	69	66	64	73	69	64	65	67	66	65	68	64

Q5C. And when it comes to our national debt, do you think it is an issue that the President and Congress should spend more time addressing or less time addressing? And is that a lot [MORE/LESS] or a little [MORE/LESS] time? [IF THE SAME AMOUNT/DONT KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say the President and Congress should probably spend more time addressing the national debt or probably spend less time addressing the national debt?

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A lot more time .....	53%	50%	51%	61%	54%	54%	53%	54%	49%	50%	49%	52%
A little more time.....	31	33	33	26	30	27	29	30	33	30	30	31
A little less time.....	6	7	5	3	5	7	7	6	6	6	8	6
A lot less time .....	4	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4
The same amount of time.	4	4	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	5	4	5
Dont know/Refused.....	3	3	5	3	3	6	4	4	4	4	5	3
MORE TIME (NET).....	84%	83	84	88	84	82	82	84	83	80	79	83
LESS TIME (NET).....	10	10	8	8	8	10	12	10	10	11	11	10

Q6C. And when it comes to our national debt, how optimistic or pessimistic are you that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years? [IF TOTALLY MIXED/DONT KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say you lean toward being optimistic or lean toward being pessimistic that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years?

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Very optimistic.....	4%	6%	6%	8%	6%	6%	9%	5%	7%	9%	7%	10%
Somewhat optimistic .....	37	38	34	34	35	37	35	37	35	33	31	36
Somewhat pessimistic.....	34	35	38	35	34	33	33	35	32	32	35	29
Very pessimistic.....	18	18	17	18	20	18	18	19	21	20	21	20
Neither/Mixed .....	4	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Dont know/Refused.....	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
OPTIMISTIC (NET) .....	42%	44	40	42	41	44	44	42	43	42	38	46
PESSIMISTIC (NET) .....	52	53	54	52	54	51	51	54	53	53	56	49

As you may or may not know, there is a September 30th deadline for lawmakers to reach an agreement on the annual budget for the federal government. If they fail to reach agreement, there will be a government shutdown.

Q7. How concerned are you that lawmakers will not be able to come to an agreement and there will be a government shutdown?

Very concerned .....	23%
Somewhat concerned.....	46
Not very concerned .....	21
Not at all concerned .....	7
Dont know enough to say.....	3
CONCERNED (NET).....	69%
NOT CONCERNED (NET).....	27

B1. Knowing a government shutdown could happen if an agreement isn't reached, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	AGREE		Neither	DISAGREE		Dont know enough to say	NET	
	Strongly	Somewhat		Somewhat	Strongly		AGREE	DISAGREE
• Democrats and Republicans should work together to avoid a government shutdown and focus their efforts on finding solutions for our national debt.....	64%	27	7	*	1	1	90%	8
• A government shutdown should be avoided because it harms the economy.....	50%	27	12	4	4	3	77%	17
• A government shutdown should be avoided because it distracts from our larger fiscal challenges. ....	36%	35	18	5	3	3	70%	23

In the midst of battles over a government shutdown and the debt ceiling, a number of lawmakers in the House and Senate have called for a bipartisan commission to address the unsustainable national debt and budget outlook.

Q11. Do you support or oppose the creation of a bipartisan congressional commission to recommend a comprehensive package of reforms to reduce our national debt?

	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Jun 23</u>
Strongly support.....	32%	27%
Somewhat support.....	36	37
Neither support nor oppose.....	18	19
Somewhat oppose.....	2	3
Strongly oppose.....	3	1
Dont know enough to say.....	10	12
 SUPPORT (NET).....	 68%	 63
OPPOSE (NET).....	5	5

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

D100. What is your gender?

Male.....	47%
Female.....	53
Self-describe.....	*

DAGE. What is your age?

18-29.....	17%
30-44.....	24
45-54.....	17
55-64.....	18
65+.....	23

Q23. Which of the following best describes you and your family?

Working class.....	25%
Lower middle class.....	19
Middle class.....	45
Upper middle class.....	9
Affluent.....	1
Im not sure.....	1

D102. What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?

Did not complete high school.....	2%
Graduated high school.....	22
Attended technical/vocational school.....	4
Attended some college but no degree.....	22
Graduated two-year college with Associates degree.....	13
Graduated four-year college with Bachelors degree.....	26
Obtained Masters, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.).....	11

D105. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as:

Very liberal.....	12%
Somewhat liberal.....	20
Moderate.....	36
Somewhat conservative.....	18
Very conservative.....	14
 LIBERAL (NET).....	 32%
CONSERVATIVE (NET).....	32

**DRACE.** To ensure we have a representative sample, please indicate your race. [IF BLACK/WHITE/OTHER] Do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Black/African-American .....	12%
White/Caucasian .....	75
Hispanic/Latino .....	10
Asian-American .....	3
Native American .....	*
Other .....	*

**REGION.** What state do you live in?

Northeast .....	18%
Midwest .....	23
South .....	38
West .....	21