REG. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes	100%
No	-
Not sure	-

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	14
Independent / Closer to the Democrats	8
Independent	13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans	6
Weak Republican	14
Strong Republican	19
DEMOCRAT (NET)	40%
INDEPENDENT (NET)	27
REPUBLICAN (NET)	33
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET)	48%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET)	39

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 DON'T 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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22
Strongly agree	55%	52%	54%	49%	64%	57%	57%	54%	57%	52%	51%	48%
Somewhat agree	25	28	27	29	20	23	23	26	25	24	26	24
Somewhat disagree	12	12	12	11	8	12	11	14	11	16	16	17
Strongly disagree	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	5	5	6
Don't know/Refused	5	4	3	6	5	5	5	3	4	4	3	5
AGREE (NET)	80%	80	81	79	85	80	80	80	82	76	77	72
DISAGREE (NET)	15	16	16	15	11	15	15	17	14	20	20	23

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/DON'T 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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22
Increased a lot	50%	53%	52%	47%	58%	54%	54%	50%	51%	51%	50%	51%
Increased a little	29	31	32	34	29	28	28	32	31	29	28	29
Decreased a little	4	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	6	7	4
Decreased a lot	3	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2
No change	10	8	8	11	6	9	8	9	8	10	10	10
Don't know/Refused	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3
INCREASED (NET)	80%	84	83	81	87	82	82	82	82	79	78	80
DECREASED (NET)	7	6	7	6	5	6	7	7	7	8	10	7

Q3C. Thinking about our national debt over the next few years, do you expect the problem to get: **[IF THE SAME/DON'T 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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22
Much better........................	6%	4%	7%	5%	6%	5%	8%	9%	7%	8%	8%	7%
Somewhat better	19	21	19	21	20	18	21	20	22	19	21	16
Somewhat worse..............	32	33	37	35	33	32	31	30	33	30	28	32
Much worse	36	35	30	32	35	37	33	34	33	37	36	38
No change	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	4	2	3	3	3
Don't know/Refused	4	3	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	2	3	5
BETTER (NET)..................	25%	25	26	26	26	24	29	29	29	28	30	23
WORSE (NET)	67	68	68	67	68	69	64	65	66	67	64	69

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/DON'T 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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22
Right direction - Strongly ...	8%	6%	8%	7%	6%	8%	12%	11%	9%	10%	12%	9%
Right direction - Somewhat....................	20	23	23	23	18	20	20	20	20	21	20	19
Wrong track - Somewhat...	27	27	26	26	26	27	23	25	27	27	24	25
Wrong track - Strongly.......	42	42	40	38	46	42	41	40	40	39	41	43
Neither/Mixed	1	*	1	1	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/Refused	3	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	2	2	3
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	28%	29	31	29	24	27	32	31	29	31	32	28
WRONG TRACK (NET)	69	69	66	64	73	69	64	65	67	66	65	68

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/DON'T 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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22
A lot more time	53%	53%	50%	51%	61%	54%	54%	53%	54%	49%	50%	49%
A little more time...............	30	31	33	33	26	30	27	29	30	33	30	30
A little less time.................	5	6	7	5	3	5	7	7	6	6	6	8
A lot less time	4	4	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	3
The same amount of time..	3	4	4	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	5	4
Don't know/Refused	5	3	3	5	3	3	6	4	4	4	4	5
MORE TIME (NET)	83%	84	83	84	88	84	82	82	84	83	80	79
LESS TIME (NET).............	9	10	10	8	8	8	10	12	10	10	11	11

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/DON'T 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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23	Jul 23	Jun 23	May 23	Apr 23	Mar 23	Feb 23	Jan 23	Dec 22	Nov 22	Oct 22
Very optimistic	6%	4%	6%	6%	8%	6%	6%	9%	5%	7%	9%	7%
Somewhat optimistic..........	36	37	38	34	34	35	37	35	37	35	33	31
Somewhat pessimistic.......	33	34	35	38	35	34	33	33	35	32	32	35
Very pessimistic.................	18	18	18	17	18	20	18	18	19	21	20	21
Neither/Mixed	3	4	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Don't know/Refused	4	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3
OPTIMISTIC (NET)	42%	42	44	40	42	41	44	44	42	43	42	38
PESSIMISTIC (NET)	51	52	53	54	52	54	51	51	54	53	53	56

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?

	Sep 23	Aug 23
Very concerned	27%	23%
Somewhat concerned	45	46
Not very concerned	17	21
Not at all concerned	6	7
Don't know enough to say	4	3
CONCERNED (NET)	72%	69
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	23	27

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

DAGE. What is your age?

18-29	9%
30-44	33
45-54	17
55-64	18
65+	23

D100. What is your gender?

Male	47%
Female	53
Self-describe	*

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

Did not complete high school	1%
Graduated high school	20
Attended technical/vocational school	4
Attended some college but no degree	22
Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	14
Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree	28
Obtained Master's, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.)	10

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	74
Hispanic/Latino	10
Asian-American	2
Native American	1
Other	1

REGION. What state do you live in?

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	21

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

Very liberal	13%
Somewhat liberal	18
Moderate	36
Somewhat conservative	19
Very conservative	14

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

Working class	28%
Lower middle class	16
Middle class	45
Upper middle class	7
Affluent	1
I'm not sure	3