

**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 .....	25%
Weak Democrat.....	14
Independent / Closer to the Democrats.....	8
Independent.....	13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans .....	6
Weak Republican .....	14
Strong Republican .....	20
DEMOCRAT (NET) .....	39%
INDEPENDENT (NET).....	27
REPUBLICAN (NET).....	34
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET).....	47%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET).....	40

**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?**

	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<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>
Strongly agree .....	55%	55%	52%	54%	49%	64%	57%	57%	54%	57%	52%	51%
Somewhat agree .....	24	25	28	27	29	20	23	23	26	25	24	26
Somewhat disagree.....	12	12	12	12	11	8	12	11	14	11	16	16
Strongly disagree.....	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	5	5
Don't know/Refused .....	5	5	4	3	6	5	5	5	3	4	4	3
AGREE (NET) .....	79%	80	80	81	79	85	80	80	80	82	76	77
DISAGREE (NET) .....	16	15	16	16	15	11	15	15	17	14	20	20

**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?**

	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<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>
Increased a lot.....	53%	50%	53%	52%	47%	58%	54%	54%	50%	51%	51%	50%
Increased a little .....	27	29	31	32	34	29	28	28	32	31	29	28
Decreased a little.....	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	6	7
Decreased a lot .....	3	3	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2
No change .....	10	10	8	8	11	6	9	8	9	8	10	10
Don't know/Refused .....	4	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3
INCREASED (NET).....	79%	80	84	83	81	87	82	82	82	82	79	78
DECREASED (NET).....	7	7	6	7	6	5	6	7	7	7	8	10

**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?

	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<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>
Much better.....	5%	6%	4%	7%	5%	6%	5%	8%	9%	7%	8%	8%
Somewhat better .....	19	19	21	19	21	20	18	21	20	22	19	21
Somewhat worse .....	32	32	33	37	35	33	32	31	30	33	30	28
Much worse .....	36	36	35	30	32	35	37	33	34	33	37	36
No change .....	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	4	2	3	3
Don't know/Refused .....	5	4	3	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	2	3
BETTER (NET).....	24%	25	25	26	26	26	24	29	29	29	28	30
WORSE (NET) .....	68	67	68	68	67	68	69	64	65	66	67	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/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?

	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<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>
Right direction - Strongly .....	7%	8%	6%	8%	7%	6%	8%	12%	11%	9%	10%	12%
Right direction - Somewhat .....	18	20	23	23	23	18	20	20	20	20	21	20
Wrong track - Somewhat .....	26	27	27	26	26	26	27	23	25	27	27	24
Wrong track - Strongly .....	44	42	42	40	38	46	42	41	40	40	39	41
Neither/Mixed .....	1	1	*	1	1	*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/Refused.....	3	3	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	2	2
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET) ..	25%	28	29	31	29	24	27	32	31	29	31	32
WRONG TRACK (NET).....	70	69	69	66	64	73	69	64	65	67	66	65

**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?

	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<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>
A lot more time .....	53%	53%	53%	50%	51%	61%	54%	54%	53%	54%	49%	50%
A little more time.....	30	30	31	33	33	26	30	27	29	30	33	30
A little less time.....	4	5	6	7	5	3	5	7	7	6	6	6
A lot less time .....	4	4	4	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	4	4
The same amount of time..	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	5
Don't know/Refused .....	5	5	3	3	5	3	3	6	4	4	4	4
MORE TIME (NET).....	83%	83	84	83	84	88	84	82	82	84	83	80
LESS TIME (NET).....	9	9	10	10	8	8	8	10	12	10	10	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?

	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<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>
Very optimistic.....	7%	6%	4%	6%	6%	8%	6%	6%	9%	5%	7%	9%
Somewhat optimistic .....	34	36	37	38	34	34	35	37	35	37	35	33
Somewhat pessimistic.....	34	33	34	35	38	35	34	33	33	35	32	32
Very pessimistic.....	19	18	18	18	17	18	20	18	18	19	21	20
Neither/Mixed .....	3	3	4	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3
Don't know/Refused .....	3	4	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3
OPTIMISTIC (NET) .....	41%	42	42	44	40	42	41	44	44	42	43	42
PESSIMISTIC (NET) .....	53	51	52	53	54	52	54	51	51	54	53	53

**Q7.** As you may know, this year, lawmakers in Washington nearly caused a government shutdown and the first ever U.S. Treasury default as we hit the debt ceiling. How important is it to you that a bipartisan fiscal commission is created to recommend comprehensive reforms to stabilize our national debt?

Very important .....	40%
Somewhat important .....	50
Not that important.....	7
Not important at all .....	4
IMPORTANT (NET).....	89%
NOT IMPORTANT (NET) .....	11

**Q8.** The US Government spends \$1.8 billion per day on interest on the national debt. That's about \$5,500 per household this year. Are you concerned about the interest burden of our national debt?

Very concerned .....	51%
Somewhat concerned.....	40
Not that concerned.....	7
Not at all concerned .....	3
CONCERNED (NET).....	91%
NOT CONCERNED (NET) .....	9

If lawmakers fail to reform Social Security, in less than ten years, there would be automatic cuts for all recipients of approximately 23%. That's a cut of about \$17,400 for the average couple.

**Q9.** How concerned are you that Social Security benefits will be automatically reduced if lawmakers do nothing to fix the program?

Very concerned .....	67%
Somewhat concerned.....	26
Not that concerned.....	5
Not at all concerned .....	2
CONCERNED (NET).....	93%
NOT CONCERNED (NET) .....	7

**Q10.** How important is it to you that lawmakers do something to reform Social Security so it is available to both current retirees and younger generations?

Very important .....	73%
Somewhat important .....	23
Not that important.....	3
Not important at all .....	2
IMPORTANT (NET).....	96%
NOT IMPORTANT (NET) .....	4

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

**DAGE.** What is your age?

18-29 .....	17%
30-44 .....	24
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 .....	2%
Graduated high school .....	22
Attended technical/vocational school .....	4
Attended some college but no degree .....	24
Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree .....	12
Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree .....	29
Obtained Master's, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.) .....	8

**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 .....	9
Asian-American .....	3
Native American .....	*
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 .....	14%
Somewhat liberal .....	17
Moderate .....	37
Somewhat conservative .....	18
Very conservative .....	14
LIBERAL (NET) .....	31%
CONSERVATIVE (NET) .....	33

**Q11.** Which of the following best describes you and your family?

Working class .....	26%
Lower middle class .....	18
Middle class .....	43
Upper middle class .....	10
Affluent .....	1
I'm not sure .....	2