

S1. Are you at least 18 years old and registered to vote at [ADDRESS ON FILE]?

Yes 100%
No -
Don't know/Refused *

P1. No matter how you may be planning to vote this year, 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, or Independent? [IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Strong Democrat 27%
Weak Democrat 9
Independent / Closer to the Democrats 9
Independent 13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans 10
Weak Republican 8
Strong Republican 21
VOL: (Don't Know/Refused) 3

DEMOCRAT (NET) 36%
INDEPENDENT (NET) 35
REPUBLICAN (NET) 29

DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET) 45%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET) 38

Q1. Some people say that addressing the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities. Do you agree or disagree? [IF AGREE/DISAGREE] Do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

	<u>Aug 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>
Strongly agree	57%	54%	58%	56%	58%	53%	57%	54%	54%	56%	58%	61%
Somewhat agree	24	24	19	23	22	27	23	24	24	21	22	20
Somewhat disagree.....	10	12	11	11	8	10	9	10	12	11	10	8
Strongly disagree	6	6	7	6	7	7	7	8	7	7	6	6
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	5	4
AGREE (NET)	81%	78	77	79	80	79	80	78	78	77	80	81
DISAGREE (NET)	16	18	18	17	16	17	16	18	19	18	16	14

Q2. Thinking about our national debt over the last few years, would you say your level of concern has increased or decreased? [FOLLOW UP] Is that [INCREASED/DECREASED] a lot or just a little?

	<u>Aug 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>
Increase a lot	46%	47%	48%	45%	47%	45%	48%	46%	43%	44%	46%	50%
Increased a little	23	24	20	21	21	20	19	19	22	22	19	16
Decreased a little.....	11	10	9	11	12	12	10	10	11	10	10	11
Decreased a lot	5	4	6	4	5	6	6	7	6	5	8	6
VOL: (No change).....	13	15	15	17	13	16	16	17	16	17	16	15
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
INCREASED (NET)	69%	70	69	66	68	65	67	65	65	66	65	66
DECREASED (NET)	16	14	15	15	17	18	16	17	17	15	17	17

Q3. And thinking about our national debt over the next few years, do you expect the problem to get better or worse? [FOLLOW UP] Is that much [BETTER/WORSE] or just somewhat [BETTER/WORSE]?

	<u>Aug 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>
Much better.....	9%	8%	7%	9%	8%	6%	10%	9%	8%	7%	9%	8%
Somewhat better	21	21	18	15	19	21	19	19	20	17	19	20
Somewhat worse	23	28	24	27	23	24	26	26	26	30	26	25
Much worse	23	21	27	23	27	26	23	26	26	29	25	28
VOL: (No change).....	5	5	5	5	7	6	6	7	7	5	7	5
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	19	18	19	20	16	17	16	13	13	11	14	13
BETTER (NET).....	30%	29	25	25	27	27	29	28	28	25	28	28
WORSE (NET)	46	48	51	50	50	50	49	52	52	59	51	53

Q4. 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? [FOLLOW UP] Do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

	<u>Aug 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>
Right direction - Strongly ...	9%	7%	10%	9%	11%	11%	10%	12%	9%	10%	10%	10%
Right direction - Somewhat.....	16	15	14	14	13	17	14	17	18	16	15	15
Wrong track - Somewhat...	20	21	15	18	17	16	17	14	16	17	16	16
Wrong track - Strongly.....	44	45	46	46	47	45	43	44	44	44	44	47
VOL: (Neither/Mixed).....	6	6	7	7	7	7	8	7	9	7	8	7
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	5	6	8	5	5	5	7	6	5	6	6	5
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	25%	22	24	23	24	28	25	29	26	26	25	25
WRONG TRACK (NET)	64	66	61	64	64	61	60	58	60	62	60	63

Q5. 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? [FOLLOW UP] Would you say a lot [MORE/LESS] time or just a little?

	<u>Aug 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>
A lot more time	61%	58%	59%	59%	63%	58%	61%	57%	58%	57%	60%	62%
A little more time.....	25	28	26	25	22	24	22	22	23	24	22	22
A little less time.....	5	5	6	4	4	6	5	6	6	6	5	5
A lot less time	2	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	4	4	3
VOL: (The same amount of time).....	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	7	6	4	6	4
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	3	4
MORE TIME (NET)	85%	86	84	84	85	82	82	80	80	81	82	84
LESS TIME (NET)	7	8	9	7	7	10	8	9	9	10	9	9

Q6. And when it comes to our national debt, are you optimistic or pessimistic that the United States will be able to make progress on our national debt over the next few years? **[FOLLOW UP]** Would you say you are very **[OPTIMISTIC/PESSIMISTIC]** or just somewhat?

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Very optimistic.....	20%	17%	21%	19%	21%	18%	18%	21%	17%	16%	21%	20%
Somewhat optimistic	31	36	28	30	28	32	31	32	36	31	30	32
Somewhat pessimistic.....	17	20	16	18	15	15	19	17	17	21	17	18
Very pessimistic.....	19	15	21	18	22	22	19	19	21	22	21	21
VOL: (Neither/Mixed).....	6	6	5	7	7	6	6	6	5	6	4	5
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	8	7	8	8	6	6	7	5	4	4	7	4
OPTIMISTIC (NET)	50%	53	49	49	50	51	49	52	53	47	51	51
PESSIMISTIC (NET).....	36	34	38	36	37	37	38	36	38	43	38	39

Finally I would like to ask you a few final questions for statistical purposes only.

D101. What is your age?

18-29	17%
30-44	24
45-54	18
55-64	18
65+.....	22
VOL: (Refused).....	2

D102. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Some grade school.....	1%
Some high school.....	5
Graduated high school	18
Technical/Vocational	2
Some college.....	20
Graduate college.....	35
Graduate professional	17
VOL: (Refused).....	1

D105. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal.....	11%
Somewhat liberal.....	17
Moderate	29
Somewhat conservative	21
Very conservative	18
VOL: (Refused).....	4
LIBERAL (NET)	27%
CONSERVATIVE (NET).....	39

QT. Do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable opinion of the Tea Party Movement? If you haven't heard of them, please tell me and we'll move on.

Strongly favorable.....	11%
Somewhat favorable.....	17
Somewhat unfavorable.....	11
Strongly unfavorable.....	27
VOL: (Heard of, but can't rate).....	20
Haven't heard of	8
VOL: (Don't Know/Refused)	6
FAVORABLE (NET)	28%
UNFAVORABLE (NET).....	38
FAMILIAR (NET)	66

D170. Thinking of your socio-economic status, would you describe yourself as working class, middle class, or as affluent? **[IF MIDDLE CLASS]** And would you describe yourself as lower middle class, upper middle class, or somewhere in between?

Working class	31%
Lower middle class	9
Middle class	39
Upper middle class	11
Affluent	5
VOL: (Don't Know/Refused)	4

D300. And just to make sure we have a representative sample of voters, could you please tell me your race? **[IF BLACK/WHITE/OTHER]** Do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Black/African-American	13%
White/Caucasian	72
Hispanic/Latino	9
Asian-American	2
Other (SPECIFY)	2
VOL: (Refused)	3

Gender [BY OBSERVATION]

Male	47%
Female	53

Region [FROM SAMPLE]

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	21