

**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 ..... 31%  
 Weak Democrat ..... 6  
 Independent / Closer to the Democrats ..... 10  
 Independent ..... 13  
 Independent / Closer to the Republicans ..... 9  
 Weak Republican ..... 6  
 Strong Republican ..... 21  
**VOL:** (Don't Know/Refused) ..... 4

DEMOCRAT (NET) ..... 37%  
 INDEPENDENT (NET) ..... 36  
 REPUBLICAN (NET) ..... 27

DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET) ..... 47%  
 REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET) ..... 36

**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>Sep 17</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
Strongly agree .....	48%	49%	47%	45%	50%	48%	49%	51%	47%	49%	48%	60%
Somewhat agree .....	22	24	25	27	24	27	25	22	27	28	27	21
Somewhat disagree.....	11	12	14	11	11	14	13	11	12	11	12	9
Strongly disagree .....	13	12	9	9	9	7	9	9	9	9	8	7
<b>VOL:</b> (Don't know/Refused).....	6	4	5	7	6	4	5	6	5	4	5	3
AGREE (NET) .....	70%	72	72	72	74	75	74	73	74	76	75	81
DISAGREE (NET) .....	24	23	23	21	20	21	22	21	21	20	21	15

**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>Sep 17</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
Increase a lot .....	40%	39%	40%	40%	47%	39%	44%	45%	40%	39%	41%	46%
Increased a little .....	22	21	24	25	21	25	20	22	23	26	22	20
Decreased a little.....	9	12	10	9	8	9	9	9	10	12	13	12
Decreased a lot .....	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	6	8	4	5	5
<b>VOL:</b> (No change).....	22	20	18	19	17	22	20	16	19	17	17	15
<b>VOL:</b> (Don't know/Refused).....	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
INCREASED (NET) .....	62%	61	64	65	69	64	65	67	62	65	63	66
DECREASED (NET) .....	14	17	16	13	12	13	13	15	18	17	19	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>Sep 17</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
Much better.....	8%	12%	10%	13%	14%	8%	14%	16%	13%	15%	15%	8%
Somewhat better .....	16	19	17	23	20	26	20	20	31	25	24	19
Somewhat worse .....	29	26	27	25	21	24	21	22	21	22	19	21
Much worse .....	35	33	32	28	35	31	35	29	24	24	28	24
<b>VOL:</b> (No change).....	7	5	6	6	4	6	4	5	4	6	5	7
<b>VOL:</b> (Don't know/Refused).....	6	5	8	6	7	5	5	8	7	8	9	21
<b>BETTER (NET)</b> .....	23%	31	28	36	34	34	34	36	44	41	39	27
<b>WORSE (NET)</b> .....	64	59	59	52	56	55	56	51	45	46	47	45

**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>Sep 17</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
Right direction - Strongly ...	10%	13%	9%	13%	15%	11%	16%	16%	15%	11%	11%	12%
Right direction - Somewhat.....	17	19	17	18	18	21	17	17	22	19	19	17
Wrong track - Somewhat.....	18	17	17	18	14	17	14	14	17	19	17	14
Wrong track - Strongly.....	36	38	40	35	39	33	37	33	24	33	37	44
<b>VOL:</b> (Neither/Mixed).....	11	8	9	10	7	11	8	10	13	13	8	6
<b>VOL:</b> (Don't know/Refused).....	7	4	8	6	8	7	8	10	10	6	8	6
<b>RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)</b> .....	27%	32	26	31	33	31	33	33	37	29	30	29
<b>WRONG TRACK (NET)</b> .....	54	56	57	53	53	51	51	47	41	52	54	59

**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>Sep 17</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
A lot more time .....	48%	52%	49%	47%	55%	50%	51%	55%	51%	51%	54%	62%
A little more time.....	25	25	28	29	23	30	25	25	29	29	24	23
A little less time.....	7	8	7	7	6	7	6	6	5	5	6	5
A lot less time .....	6	4	5	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	5	3
<b>VOL:</b> (The same amount of time).....	7	6	6	8	7	6	7	5	5	6	6	5
<b>VOL:</b> (Don't know/Refused).....	6	5	6	7	6	5	6	6	6	4	5	3
<b>MORE TIME (NET)</b> .....	73%	76	77	76	78	80	77	80	80	81	78	85
<b>LESS TIME (NET)</b> .....	13	13	12	10	10	9	11	9	9	9	11	7

**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?

	<u>Sep 17</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
Very optimistic.....	17%	22%	20%	22%	24%	21%	24%	28%	26%	25%	25%	23%
Somewhat optimistic .....	28	27	27	27	27	30	29	26	33	28	30	30
Somewhat pessimistic.....	17	19	18	20	16	20	16	14	16	18	17	13
Very pessimistic.....	27	24	26	22	26	22	23	23	16	19	21	20
<b>VOL:</b> (Neither/Mixed).....	6	4	5	5	4	5	4	6	5	6	3	6
<b>VOL:</b> (Don't know/Refused).....	5	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	8
<b>OPTIMISTIC (NET)</b> .....	45%	50	47	49	51	50	53	53	59	54	55	53
<b>PESSIMISTIC (NET)</b> .....	45	43	44	42	42	42	40	36	32	37	38	33

<b>D101.</b> What is your age?	18-29 .....	17%
	30-44 .....	24
	45-54 .....	18
	55-64 .....	18
	65+ .....	22
	<b>VOL:</b> (Refused) .....	2
<b>D102.</b> What is the last grade that you completed in school?	Some grade school .....	1%
	Some high school .....	4
	Graduated high school .....	20
	Technical/Vocational .....	4
	Some college .....	20
	Graduate college .....	32
	Graduate professional .....	18
<b>VOL:</b> (Refused) .....	1	
<b>D105.</b> When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?	Very liberal .....	14%
	Somewhat liberal .....	14
	Moderate .....	30
	Somewhat conservative .....	19
	Very conservative .....	18
	<b>VOL:</b> (Refused) .....	6
	LIBERAL (NET) .....	28%
	CONSERVATIVE (NET) .....	37
<b>QT.</b> 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 .....	7%
	Somewhat favorable .....	14
	Somewhat unfavorable .....	9
	Strongly unfavorable .....	30
	<b>VOL:</b> (Heard of, but can't rate) .....	27
	<b>VOL:</b> (Haven't heard of .....	9
	<b>VOL:</b> (Don't Know/Refused) .....	5
	FAVORABLE (NET) .....	21%
	UNFAVORABLE (NET) .....	38
	FAMILIAR (NET) .....	59
<b>D170.</b> 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 .....	7
	Middle class .....	42
	Upper middle class .....	10
	Affluent .....	5
	<b>VOL:</b> (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?

Black/African-American .....	13%
White/Caucasian .....	71
Hispanic/Latino .....	8
Asian-American .....	1
Other .....	2
<b>VOL:</b> (Refused) .....	3

**Gender [BY OBSERVATION]**

Male .....	47%
Female .....	53

**Region [FROM SAMPLE]**

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