

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 28%
Weak Democrat 7
Independent / Closer to the Democrats 9
Independent 15
Independent / Closer to the Republicans 9
Weak Republican 6
Strong Republican 23
VOL: (Don't Know/Refused) 2

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>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>	<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>
Strongly agree	49%	48%	60%	52%	57%	54%	58%	56%	58%	53%	57%	54%
Somewhat agree	28	27	21	22	24	24	19	23	22	27	23	24
Somewhat disagree.....	11	12	9	12	10	12	11	11	8	10	9	10
Strongly disagree	9	8	7	9	6	6	7	6	7	7	7	8
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4
AGREE (NET)	76%	75	81	75	81	78	77	79	80	79	80	78
DISAGREE (NET)	20	21	15	20	16	18	18	17	16	17	16	18

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>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>	<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>
Increase a lot	39%	41%	46%	47%	46%	47%	48%	45%	47%	45%	48%	46%
Increased a little	26	22	20	19	23	24	20	21	21	20	19	19
Decreased a little.....	12	13	12	10	11	10	9	11	12	12	10	10
Decreased a lot	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	4	5	6	6	7
VOL: (No change).....	17	17	15	15	13	15	15	17	13	16	16	17
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
INCREASED (NET).....	65%	63	66	66	69	70	69	66	68	65	67	65
DECREASED (NET)	17	19	17	15	16	14	15	15	17	18	16	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>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>	<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>
Much better.....	15%	15%	8%	7%	9%	8%	7%	9%	8%	6%	10%	9%
Somewhat better	25	24	19	18	21	21	18	15	19	21	19	19
Somewhat worse	22	19	21	25	23	28	24	27	23	24	26	26
Much worse	24	28	24	22	23	21	27	23	27	26	23	26
VOL: (No change).....	6	5	7	6	5	5	5	5	7	6	6	7
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	8	9	21	22	19	18	19	20	16	17	16	13
BETTER (NET).....	41%	39	27	25	30	29	25	25	27	27	29	28
WORSE (NET)	46	47	45	47	46	48	51	50	50	50	49	52

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>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>	<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>
Right direction - Strongly ...	11%	11%	12%	10%	9%	7%	10%	9%	11%	11%	10%	12%
Right direction - Somewhat.....	19	19	17	14	16	15	14	14	13	17	14	17
Wrong track - Somewhat...	19	17	14	14	20	21	15	18	17	16	17	14
Wrong track - Strongly.....	33	37	44	49	44	45	46	46	47	45	43	44
VOL: (Neither/Mixed).....	13	8	6	7	6	6	7	7	7	7	8	7
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	6	8	6	6	5	6	8	5	5	5	7	6
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	29%	30	29	24	25	22	24	23	24	28	25	29
WRONG TRACK (NET)	52	54	59	63	64	66	61	64	64	61	60	58

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>Dec 16</u>	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>	<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>
A lot more time	51%	54%	62%	59%	61%	58%	59%	59%	63%	58%	61%	57%
A little more time.....	29	24	23	22	25	28	26	25	22	24	22	22
A little less time.....	5	6	5	8	5	5	6	4	4	6	5	6
A lot less time	4	5	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	4	3
VOL: (The same amount of time).....	6	6	5	3	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	7
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	4	5	3	5	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	4
MORE TIME (NET)	81%	78	85	81	85	86	84	84	85	82	82	80
LESS TIME (NET)	9	11	7	11	7	8	9	7	7	10	8	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.....	25%	25%	23%	19%	20%	17%	21%	19%	21%	18%	18%	21%
Somewhat optimistic	28	30	30	27	31	36	28	30	28	32	31	32
Somewhat pessimistic.....	18	17	13	15	17	20	16	18	15	15	19	17
Very pessimistic.....	19	21	20	21	19	15	21	18	22	22	19	19
VOL: (Neither/Mixed).....	6	3	6	6	6	6	5	7	7	6	6	6
VOL: (Don't know/Refused).....	4	4	8	12	8	7	8	8	6	6	7	5
OPTIMISTIC (NET)	54%	55	53	46	50	53	49	49	50	51	49	52
PESSIMISTIC (NET).....	37	38	33	36	36	34	38	36	37	37	38	36

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	21
Technical/Vocational	4
Some college.....	18
Graduate college.....	33
Graduate professional	18
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.....	13%
Somewhat liberal	14
Moderate	30
Somewhat conservative	20
Very conservative	19
VOL: (Refused).....	4
LIBERAL (NET)	26%
CONSERVATIVE (NET).....	40

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.....	8%
Somewhat favorable.....	17
Somewhat unfavorable.....	13
Strongly unfavorable.....	28
VOL: (Heard of, but can't rate).....	23
Haven't heard of	6
VOL: (Don't Know/Refused)	5
FAVORABLE (NET)	25%
UNFAVORABLE (NET).....	42
FAMILIAR (NET)	67

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	29%
Lower middle class	10
Middle class	40
Upper middle class	12
Affluent	4
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	1
Other (SPECIFY)	2
VOL: (Refused)	3

Gender [BY OBSERVATION]

Male	47%
Female	53

Region [FROM SAMPLE]

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	20