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October 19 - 21, 2026
49427
1000 Interviews
Margin of Error: +/- 3.1%

REG. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes	100%
No	-
Not sure	-

S2. As you may know, there will be an election for Congress and other offices in November. How likely are you to vote in the November election? Will you definitely vote, probably vote, are the chances 50-50, probably not vote, or definitely not vote? Or have you already voted?

Definitely	65%
Probably	14
Chance 50-50	12
Probably not	2
Definitely not	1
Already voted	6

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, an 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	29%
Weak Democrat	11
Independent / Closer to the Democrats	7
Independent	12
Independent / Closer to the Republicans	5
Weak Republican	12
Strong Republican	24
DEMOCRAT (NET)	39%
INDEPENDENT (NET)	24
REPUBLICAN (NET)	36
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET)	46%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET)	41

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?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25
Strongly agree	56%	58%	58%	56%	56%	60%	55%	56%	52%	52%	55%	52%
Somewhat agree	25	23	23	22	25	24	26	26	26	25	24	27
Somewhat disagree	11	10	11	12	11	9	9	10	10	13	12	12
Strongly disagree	4	3	3	4	4	2	5	3	6	5	4	5
Don't know/Refused	4	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
AGREE (NET)	80%	81	82	79	81	84	81	82	79	77	79	79
DISAGREE (NET)	15	14	14	16	15	11	15	13	16	18	16	17

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?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25
Increased a lot	52%	56%	55%	52%	53%	56%	54%	53%	49%	48%	50%	48%
Increased a little	32	28	28	29	28	27	28	28	28	29	27	31
Decreased a little	4	6	4	5	4	6	6	5	7	6	7	6
Decreased a lot	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	3
No change	6	7	7	8	9	6	7	8	9	9	9	8
Don't know/Refused	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4
INCREASED (NET)	84%	83	83	81	81	83	82	81	77	77	77	78
DECREASED (NET)	6	7	7	8	7	7	8	7	10	10	11	9

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?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25
Much better	10%	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%	11%	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%
Somewhat better	21	16	18	19	18	16	17	19	21	22	24	23
Somewhat worse	30	29	28	26	30	26	31	25	29	28	25	24
Much worse	32	40	40	40	37	42	35	38	33	32	33	34
No change	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Don't know/Refused	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
BETTER (NET)	31%	26	27	28	28	26	28	31	32	35	37	37
WORSE (NET)	62	69	67	66	67	69	66	63	61	60	58	58

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?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25
Right direction - Strongly	12%	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	15%	14%	16%	16%	17%	18%
Right direction - Somewhat	20	18	18	17	19	17	16	20	21	24	24	21
Wrong track - Somewhat	23	20	20	21	22	20	21	18	21	20	17	21
Wrong track - Strongly	41	47	46	46	44	47	44	43	38	36	38	37
Neither/Mixed	1	*	1	*	1	1	*	1	*	*	*	1
Don't know/Refused	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	32%	30	31	29	30	29	31	35	37	40	41	39
WRONG TRACK (NET)	64	67	66	67	66	67	65	61	59	57	55	58

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?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25
A lot more time	53%	55%	55%	52%	53%	57%	56%	52%	49%	49%	50%	49%
A little more time	28	30	30	29	31	28	27	31	31	32	32	33
A little less time	6	4	5	6	5	4	5	4	6	6	6	5
A lot less time	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4
The same amount of time	4	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3
Don't know/Refused	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	6	5	5	4
MORE TIME (NET)	81%	85	85	81	84	85	83	83	80	81	82	82
LESS TIME (NET)	11	8	9	10	9	8	10	9	11	11	9	10

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?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25
Very optimistic	9%	8%	9%	8%	8%	7%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	12%
Somewhat optimistic	33	30	28	28	30	31	30	30	34	30	36	34
Somewhat pessimistic	30	32	32	32	34	28	33	28	29	30	26	26
Very pessimistic	22	26	25	26	23	28	22	25	21	22	22	22
Neither/Mixed	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know/Refused	3	2	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	4
OPTIMISTIC (NET)	42%	38	37	37	38	38	40	41	44	42	47	45
PESSIMISTIC (NET)	52	57	57	58	57	56	55	53	50	52	48	49

Q7. As you may know, economists from across the ideological spectrum agree that the rising national debt can increase inflation and interest rates, which makes things like goods, services and transportation more expensive for consumers.

How concerned are you that the national debt's effect on inflation is increasing your own cost of living, such as prices for things like groceries, energy, housing and other everyday expenses?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Very concerned	53%	57%	55%	54%	55%	56%	54%	55%	48%
Somewhat concerned	38	35	36	36	36	37	38	36	41
Not that concerned	7	6	6	7	7	5	7	7	7
Not concerned at all	1	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	3
CONCERNED (NET)	92%	92	91	90	92	93	92	90	90
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	8	8	9	10	8	7	8	10	10

Q8. How concerned are you that the national debt's effect on interest rates is contributing to higher borrowing costs, such as credit card interest, car loan rates, mortgage rates and other personal loans?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Very concerned	47%	49%	47%	45%	44%	48%	48%	47%	41%
Somewhat concerned	42	40	41	42	44	42	40	39	44
Not that concerned	8	8	8	11	9	7	9	10	11
Not concerned at all	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
CONCERNED (NET)	88%	89	89	86	88	90	88	86	85
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	12	11	11	14	12	10	12	14	15

Q9. How important is the cost of living and overall affordability to your vote in the 2026 elections?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Very important	65%	66%	69%	66%	66%	68%	66%	67%	64%
Somewhat important	27	28	25	26	27	26	27	25	28
Not too important	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	6	5
Not at all important	1	1	1	1	1	*	1	1	1
I do not plan to vote in 2026	2	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	2
IMPORTANT (NET)	93%	94	94	92	93	95	92	91	92
NOT IMPORTANT (NET)	6	5	5	6	5	4	6	7	6

Q10. Over the past month, do you think candidates for political office are talking enough about the national debt and its impact on the cost of living?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	34%	30%	28%	28%	30%	25%	28%	29%	30%
No, candidates should talk about this more	66	70	72	72	70	75	72	71	70

Q11. Is a candidate having a plan to address the national debt a factor in deciding whether you would support them in the 2026 election?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, definitely	33%	35%	34%	29%	35%	35%	36%	37%	31%
Yes, probably	48	49	52	53	49	52	47	46	52
No, probably not	16	13	12	15	13	10	15	15	14
No, definitely not	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3
YES (NET)	82%	84	86	82	85	87	83	83	83
NO (NET)	18	16	14	18	15	13	17	17	17

Q12. How likely are you to support a candidate this year that has a clear plan to address the national debt?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Much more likely	40%	41%	41%	37%	39%	40%	42%	44%	38%
Somewhat more likely	55	54	55	57	55	55	52	49	55
Somewhat less likely	4	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	4
Much less likely	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
MORE LIKELY (NET)	95%	95	96	94	94	95	94	93	93
LESS LIKELY (NET)	5	5	4	6	6	5	6	7	7

Q13. Would you consider supporting a candidate from a political party you don't usually support if that candidate had a clear plan to address the national debt?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, I would consider it	74%	71%	73%	73%	74%	75%	74%	74%	72%
No, I would never consider it	26	29	27	27	26	25	26	26	28

Q14. [IF ALREADY VOTED] Was the national debt a factor in your vote for federal candidates in the November elections?

Yes, the national debt was a factor in my vote	42%
No, the national debt was not a factor in my vote	58

Q15. [IF NOT YET VOTED] In the upcoming November elections, will the national debt play a major role in who you choose for federal office?

Yes, the national debt will play a major role in my vote	61%
No, the national debt will not play a major role in my vote	36
I do not plan to vote in November	3

Q16. Thinking back to previous elections, has the national debt ever been a factor in deciding which candidates you voted for?

Yes, the national debt has been a factor in my vote in past elections	55%
No, the national debt has never been a factor in my vote in past elections	45

Changing topics slightly...

Q17. As you may know, if Congress doesn't act, current and future Social Security beneficiaries will receive an immediate 23% benefit cut starting in 2032. The U.S. Senators elected this November will be in office at that time.

Do you think candidates this year should clearly explain their plans to prevent automatic cuts to Social Security benefits?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, definitely	69%	*70%*	*77%*	*74%*	*75%*	*76%*	*76%*	*74%*	*70%*
Yes, probably	26	*24*	*20*	*21*	*21*	*19*	*21*	*21*	*25*
No, probably not	3	*5*	*2*	*4*	*2*	*3*	*2*	*3*	*4*
No, definitely not	1	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*2*	*1*
YES (NET)	96%	*94*	*97*	*95*	*96*	*96*	*97*	*95*	*95*
NO (NET)	4	*6*	*3*	*5*	*4*	*4*	*3*	*5*	*5*

Q18. Over the past month, do you think candidates are talking enough about plans to prevent automatic Social Security benefit cuts?

	Total	Sep 26	Aug 26	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	28%	*19%*	*20%*	*21%*	*21%*	*19%*	*22%*	*22%*	*22%*
No, candidates should talk about this more	72	*81*	*80*	*79*	*79*	*81*	*78*	*78*	*78*

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

D100. What is your gender?

Male	47%
Female	53
Self-describe	*

DAGE. What is your age?

18-29	17%
30-44	24
45-54	17
55-64	18
65+	23

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

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

Did not complete high school	2%
Graduated high school	25
Attended technical/vocational school	4
Attended some college but no degree	21
Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	11
Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree	26
Obtained Master's, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.)	11

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)	32

D108. Which of the following best describes you and your family?

Working class	31%
Lower middle class	17
Middle class	38
Upper middle class	10
Affluent	1
I'm not sure	2

REGION. What state do you live in?

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	21

REGION9. Coded National Region **[9-WAY]**

New England	5%
Middle Atlantic	13
East North Central	16
West North Central	7
South Atlantic	21
East South Central	6
West South Central	11
Mountain	7
Pacific	14