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Energy, Terrorism, Immigration Less Important
Than in 2008

For Voters It's Still the Economy

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut

President, Pew Research Center

Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock

Associate Directors

Scott Keeter

Director of Survey Research

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel (202) 419-4350
Fax (202) 419-4399
www.peoplepress.org

Energy, Terrorism, Immigration Less Important Than in 2008 For Voters It's Still the Economy

As Barack Obama and Mitt Romney prepare for their first debate on Oct. 3, the issues at the top of the voters' agenda have changed little since 2008. Fully 87% of registered voters say that the economy will be very important to their vote, while 83% say jobs will be very important to their vote.

Four years ago, the economy also was the top priority for voters. In August 2008, an identical 87% said the economy was very important to their vote, and in October 2008, 80% rated jobs as very important.

However, the latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 12-16 among 3,019 adults, including 2,424 registered voters, finds that several other issues have declined in importance since 2008. Most notably, energy policy rated among the most important electoral issues in 2008 – 77% said it was very important to their vote. Today it ranks near the bottom of the voting priorities list at 55%.

Terrorism also has declined as a voting priority. Currently, 60% of voters say the issue of terrorism will be very important to their vote, down from 72% in August 2008.

Immigration is also less of a focus in 2012. In the new survey, 41% view the issue of immigration as very important – the lowest of 12 issues tested – compared with 52% in August 2008.

Voters' Priorities: 2008-2012

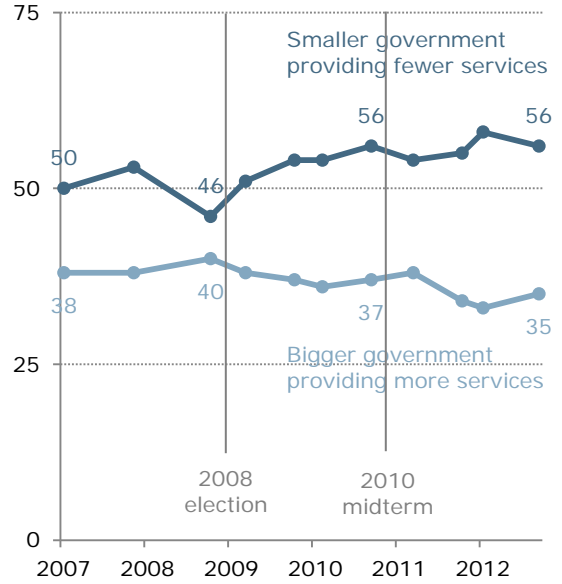
<i>% of voters saying each is "very important" to their vote ...</i>	2008	2012	Change
	%	%	
Economy	87	87	0
Jobs*	80	83	+3
Health care	73	74	+1
Education	73	69	-4
Budget deficit**	69	68	-1
Taxes*	71	66	-5
Medicare	--	65	--
Terrorism	72	60	-12
Foreign policy	--	60	--
Energy	77	55	-22
Abortion	39	46	+7
Immigration	52	41	-11

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012.
Based on registered voters. All 2008 figures from August except* October 2008 and ** May 2008.

The survey also finds that far more voters continue to favor a smaller government with fewer services than a bigger government that provides more services. Currently, 56% say they would rather have a smaller government providing fewer services; 35% prefer a bigger government. These opinions have changed little over the course of Obama's presidency. In October 2008, however, opinion was more evenly divided (46% smaller government vs. 40% bigger government).

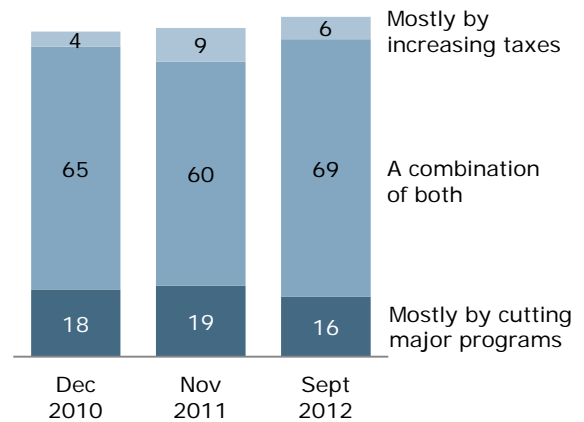
In addition, while the budget deficit remains a very important issue for most voters, there continues to be broad agreement that the best way to reduce the budget deficit is with a combination of tax increases and cuts in major programs. In the new survey, fully 69% of registered voters say the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit is with a combination of tax increases and spending cuts; just 16% say the focus should be mostly on cutting major programs and just 6% say the deficit should be reduced mostly by increasing taxes.

Voters' Preference for Smaller Government Persists



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q40. Based on registered voters.

Best Way to Reduce the Budget Deficit



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q41. Based on registered voters.

Priorities of Romney, Obama, Swing Voters

There are substantial differences between the priorities of voters who support Romney and those who back Obama. Eight-in-ten Romney voters (82%) say the budget deficit will be very important to their vote, compared with 55% of Obama supporters.

That is a reversal from four years ago; in May 2008, more Obama voters (77%) than supporters of John McCain (60%) said the budget deficit was very important to their vote.

The Pew Research Center's annual public priorities surveys have found that the party out of power tends to place greater importance on the budget deficit than does the party that controls the White House. [In January 2012](#), 84% of Republicans and 66% of Democrats viewed reducing the budget deficit as a top priority. Four years earlier, at the start of George W. Bush's final year in office, more Democrats (64%) than Republicans (52%) said the reducing deficit was a top priority.

In the current survey, Romney supporters also are more likely than Obama voters to view terrorism (by 13 points), immigration (11 points), the economy (10 points) and foreign policy (10 points) as very important to their vote. And while jobs rank near the top of the agenda for Obama voters, more Romney voters rate the issue of jobs as very important (87% to 81%). Taxes also are viewed as very important by somewhat more Romney voters (70% vs. 64% of Obama voters).

Education, Medicare and health care rate as far more important priorities for Obama voters than for Romney voters. More than eight-in-ten Obama supporters (84%) say education will be very important to their vote, compared with 52% of Romney supporters, and there also are sizable gaps over Medicare (19 points) and health care (15 points).

Romney, Obama Voters' Differing Agendas

<i>% of voters saying each is "very important" to their vote ...</i>	Romney voters	Obama voters	Diff
	%	%	
Budget deficit	82	55	R+27
Terrorism	68	55	R+13
Immigration	47	36	R+11
Economy	93	83	R+10
Foreign policy	66	56	R+10
Jobs	87	81	R+6
Taxes	70	64	R+6
Abortion	46	49	O+3
Energy	51	59	O+8
Health care	67	82	O+15
Medicare	55	74	O+19
Education	52	84	O+32

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q17a-l.
Based on registered voters.

Roughly one-in-five voters (22%) are considered swing voters, either because they are undecided or haven't fully committed to Obama or Romney. For the most part their priorities are in line with those of all registered voters: Fully 85% of swing voters view the economy as a very important voting issue, followed by education and jobs (74%).

Abortion rates as a less important issue among swing voters than among all registered voters. Only about a third (34%) of swing voters say abortion is very important to their vote. Nearly half of all voters (46%) say abortion is very important.

Gender, Age Differences in Priorities

Women are far more likely than men to rate several issues as very important, including abortion and health care. More than half of women (54%) say the issue of abortion will be very important in their voting decision, compared with 36% of men. And while 81% of women voters say health care will be very important, fewer men (67%) view that issue as very important.

Women also are more likely than men to view education (by 10 points) and jobs (eight points) as very important. There are no issues that significantly more men than women rate as very important.

Issues that Matter to Swing Voters

% of swing voters who say each is "very important" to their vote:

	%
Economy	85
Education	74
Jobs	74
Health care	65
Budget deficit	63
Medicare	61
Taxes	57
Terrorism	57
Energy	54
Foreign policy	45
Immigration	39
Abortion	34

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q17. Based on swing voters, those who are undecided, only lean toward a candidate, or say there is a chance they will change their mind.

More Women Rate Issue of Abortion as Very Important

% of voters saying each is "very important" to vote

	Total	Men	Women	M-W diff
	%	%	%	
Abortion	46	36	54	W+18
Health care	74	67	81	W+14
Education	69	64	74	W+10
Jobs	83	78	86	W+8
Medicare	65	62	67	W+5
Economy	87	85	89	W+4
Immigration	41	39	43	W+4
Terrorism	60	59	62	W+3
Taxes	66	66	66	0
Foreign policy	60	61	60	M+1
Budget deficit	68	70	67	M+3
Energy	55	57	53	M+4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q17. Based on registered voters.

While women view abortion as a more important issue than do men, there is no indication in the survey that is having an impact on the vote choices of women. In the new survey, women favor Obama over Romney by a wide margin (56% to 37%). Obama's advantage is about as wide among women who view abortion as very important (58% to 37%) as among those who view it as less important (53% to 36%).

Medicare rates as a much more important issue for older voters than younger voters. More than eight-in-ten (83%) voters 65 and older view the issue as very important to their vote, as do 69% of those 50 to 64. Among voters younger than 50, just 55% rate Medicare as a very important issue.

Older voters who rate Medicare as a very important issue support Obama by a substantial margin. Among all voters 50 and older, Obama and Romney run about even (48% Obama vs. 44% Romney). But voters in this age group who view Medicare as very important support Obama by 54% to 39%. Among the much smaller group that views the issue as less important, Romney leads, 59% to 33%.

Medicare a Top Issue for Older Voters

<i>% of voters saying each is "very important" to vote</i>	18-49	50-64	65+	Young-Old diff
	%	%	%	
Medicare	55	69	83	-28
Terrorism	53	63	72	-19
Foreign policy	55	59	73	-18
Energy	52	55	64	-12
Immigration	37	41	47	-10
Health care	72	75	80	-8
Abortion	45	45	49	-4
Economy	86	89	90	-4
Jobs	81	84	84	-3
Budget deficit	68	66	70	-2
Education	72	65	69	+3
Taxes	66	69	63	+3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q17.
Based on registered voters.

Energy Falls in Importance

Energy emerged as a major issue during the 2008 campaign. In August, as gas prices surged, 77% of voters said the issue of energy would be very important to their vote. Currently, just 55% view energy as very important.

Just 52% of Republican voters now say energy is very important, down from 74% four years ago when the phrase “drill baby drill” became a political slogan at the 2008 GOP convention. The declines have been comparable among independents (25 points) and Democrats (20 points).

Similarly, since 2008 terrorism has declined in importance among Republicans (by 12 points), Democrats (13 points) and independents (11 points). Republicans (69%) remain far more likely than independents (58%) or Democrats (56%) to view terrorism as very important.

Four years ago, a majority of Republican voters (61%) said that the issue of immigration would be very important to their vote. That has fallen to 46% in the current survey. Fewer independent voters also rate the issue of energy as very important than did so four years ago (51% then, 39% today). There has not been a significant change in opinions among Democrats over this period (45% very important then, 39% today).

Energy, Terrorism, Immigration Viewed as Less Important

<i>% of voters saying each is “very important” to their vote ...</i>	2008	2012	Change
	%	%	
Energy			
All voters	77	55	-22
Republican	74	52	-22
Democrat	82	62	-20
Independent	76	51	-25
Terrorism			
All voters	72	60	-12
Republican	81	69	-12
Democrat	69	56	-13
Independent	68	58	-10
Immigration			
All voters	52	41	-11
Republican	61	46	-15
Democrat	45	39	-6
Independent	51	39	-12

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q17h,k,l.
Based on registered voters

Views of Government More Linked to Voting Preferences

Views about the size of government have long been linked with voting preferences. But these opinions are now more correlated with the vote than in previous election cycles going back to 1976.

Among voters who favor a bigger government providing more services, 83% support Obama and just 12% back Romney. Those who would rather have a smaller government providing fewer services support Romney by more than two-to-one (65% to 29%).

The Pew Research Center's [long-term study of political values](#), released June 4, found that the largest divides between Obama supporters and Romney supporters were over the scope and role of government in the economic realm, and that the partisan divides over these and other values continue to grow.

Views of Government Increasingly Linked to Voting

<i>Among those who want bigger govt</i>	2000	2004	2008	2012
<i>Voting for:</i>	%	%	%	%
Dem candidate	69	68	77	83
Rep candidate	22	31	16	12
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
	D+47	D+37	D+61	D+71

<i>Among those who want smaller govt</i>	2000	2004	2008	2012
<i>Voting for:</i>				
Dem candidate	34	40	31	29
Rep candidate	57	58	59	65
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100
	R+23	R+18	R+28	R+36

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 12-16, 2012. Q40. Based on registered voters. 2004 from ABC News/Washington Post. 2000 from ABC News. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted September 12-16, 2012, among a national sample of 3,019 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,806 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,213 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 599 who had no landline telephone). Data collection was managed by Princeton Survey Research Associates International and conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total	3,019	2.1 percentage points
Registered voters	2,424	2.3 percentage points
<i>Among registered voters</i>		
Republican voters	717	4.3 percentage points
Democratic voters	869	3.9 percentage points
Independent voters	757	4.1 percentage points
Obama supporters	1,188	3.3 percentage points
Romney supporters	1,062	3.5 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
TOPLINE
September 12-16, 2012
N=3,019

QUESTIONS THOUGHT-Q.16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 1-4, 6, 10

Q.11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=1):

Q.17 In making your decision about who to vote for this fall, will the issue of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?
 How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: How important will the issue of [ITEM] be to you in making your decision about who to vote for this fall?]** **[INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RE-READ RESPONSE OPTIONS AS NECESSARY TO REMIND RESPONDENTS OF OPTIONS. IF RESPONDENT VOICES THEIR SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION TO AN ISSUE, CLARIFY: "this question is not about your position on each issue, just how important each issue will be to your vote."]**

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK ITEMS a-f OF FORM 1 REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY [N=1,161]:						
a.F1	Jobs					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	83	13	2	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	84	13	1	1	*
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 ¹	88	9	1	1	*
	Mid-October, 2008	80	15	2	2	1
	Late May, 2008	78	17	3	1	1
	October, 2007	71	23	3	2	1
	Mid-October, 2004	76	19	4	1	*
b.F1	Health care					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	74	20	3	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	74	19	5	2	*
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	78	17	3	1	*
	Mid-October, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
	August, 2008	73	21	5	1	*
	Late May, 2008	78	17	3	2	*
	October, 2007	76	18	4	1	1
	June, 2007	71	23	4	2	*
	Mid-October, 2004	73	22	4	1	*
	August, 2004	72	21	5	2	*
c.F1	Abortion					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	46	24	13	14	3
	Apr 4-15, 2012	39	25	14	18	4
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	43	24	13	17	3
	Mid-October, 2008	41	29	16	12	2
	August, 2008	39	26	17	15	3
	Late May, 2008	40	27	15	15	3
	October, 2007	39	26	17	13	5
	June, 2007	40	30	13	14	3
	Mid-October, 2004	47	27	12	11	3
	August, 2004	45	25	13	14	3

¹ In all 2010 trends, the question read "As you think about the elections for Congress this November, how important are each of the following issues to you. Is the issue of [INSERT ITEM] very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: As you think about the elections for Congress this November, is the issue of [ITEM] very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important to you? "

Q. 17 CONTINUED...

		<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
d.F1	Foreign policy					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	60	31	5	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	52	38	6	2	2
e.F1	Taxes					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	66	26	5	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	61	28	8	2	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	68	24	6	2	1
	Mid-October, 2008	71	24	3	1	1
	Late May, 2008	68	24	5	2	1
	October, 2007	63	28	6	1	2
	June, 2007	62	29	7	2	*
	Mid-October, 2004	59	31	7	2	1
f.F1	The federal budget deficit					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	68	23	6	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	74	19	4	2	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	69	22	5	2	2
	Late May, 2008	69	21	4	3	3
	October, 2007	61	28	8	1	2
	Mid-October, 2004	57	32	7	3	1
	August, 2004	55	35	7	3	*

ASK ITEMS g-I OF FORM 2 REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY [N=1,263]:

g.F2	The economy					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	87	11	1	1	*
	Apr 4-15, 2012	86	11	1	1	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	90	9	1	*	*
	Mid-October, 2008	91	7	2	*	*
	August, 2008	87	12	1	*	*
	Late May, 2008	88	9	1	1	1
	October, 2007	79	18	1	1	1
	June, 2007	74	22	2	1	1
	Mid-October, 2004	78	18	3	1	*
	August, 2004	76	22	1	1	*
h.F2	Energy					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	55	33	9	3	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	61	30	6	1	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	5	2	1
	Mid-October, 2008	78	18	3	1	*
	August, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
	Late May, 2008	77	20	2	*	1
	October, 2007	65	28	3	2	2
	June, 2007	61	32	4	2	1
	Mid-October, 2004	54	37	6	2	1
	August, 2004	53	40	6	*	1
i.F2	Medicare					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	65	26	6	2	*
	Apr 4-15, 2012	66	24	7	2	*
j.F2	Education					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	69	23	5	3	*
	Apr 4-15, 2012	72	21	5	2	*
	Mid-October, 2008	73	21	4	2	*
	August, 2008	73	20	5	1	1
	Late May, 2008	78	17	3	1	1

Q.17 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October, 2007	75	21	2	1	1
Mid-October, 2004	75	20	3	2	*
August, 2004	70	26	3	1	*
k.F2 Terrorism					
Sep 12-16, 2012	60	27	7	4	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	59	25	9	5	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	71	18	6	3	1
Mid-October, 2008	69	20	7	3	1
August, 2008	72	20	5	2	1
Late May, 2008	68	23	6	2	1
October, 2007	69	22	5	3	1
June, 2007	69	24	4	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	77	17	3	2	1
August, 2004	75	19	3	2	1
I.F2 Immigration					
Sep 12-16, 2012	41	37	13	6	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	35	15	6	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	58	29	8	4	1
Mid-October, 2008	49	32	13	5	1
August, 2008	52	33	10	4	1
Late May, 2008	54	32	9	3	2
October, 2007	56	31	7	4	2
June, 2007	54	34	7	3	2

NO QUESTIONS 18-20

QUESTIONS 21-38 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Q.39 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1564]:

Q.40F2 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 12-16, 2012	51	40	4	6
Jan 4-8, 2012	52	39	2	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	41	2	8
Mar 8-14, 2011	50	42	3	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	42	3	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	50	39	4	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	40	3	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	51	40	4	6
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	40	3	9
Late October 2008	42	43	4	11
November 2007	47	42	4	7
January 2007	45	43	4	8
<i>LA Times/Bloomberg: January 2006</i>	49	38	--	13
<i>LA Times: January 2005</i>	52	36	--	12
<i>ABC/Wash Post: June 2004</i>	50	46	--	4
<i>CBS/NYT: November 2003</i>	45	42	4	9
<i>CBS/NYT: July 2003</i>	48	40	5	7
<i>ABC: November 2002 (Likely voters)</i>	60	35	--	5
<i>Wash Post: September 2002</i>	54	39	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post: July 2002</i>	53	42	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post: January 2002</i>	54	41	--	5
<i>CBS/NYT: January 2002</i>	46	40	3	11

Q.40F2 CONTINUED...

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>LA Times</i> : November 2001	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 2001	48	39	3	11
<i>LA Times</i> : March 2001	59	29	--	12
<i>CBS</i> : January 2001	51	36	5	8
<i>CBS</i> : November 2000	54	31	5	10
<i>CBS</i> : October 2000	57	32	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : October 2000 (RV)	58	32	--	10
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : Early October 2000 (RV)	58	33	--	9
<i>LA Times</i> : September 2000 (RV)	59	26	--	15
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 2000	59	34	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : April 2000	56	38	--	7
<i>CBS</i> : September 1999	46	43	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : August 1998	59	35	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : August 1996	63	32	--	5
<i>LA Times</i> : April 1996	62	28	--	10
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : February 1996	61	30	4	5
<i>LA Times</i> : October 1995	68	23	--	9
<i>LA Times</i> : September 1995	62	27	--	11
<i>LA Times</i> : January 1995	63	27	--	10
<i>LA Times</i> : June 1993	60	29	--	11
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : February 1993	67	30	--	2
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1992	55	38	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1991	42	43	7	8
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : January 1989 ²	41	48	4	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1988 (Likely voters)	47	37	7	9
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1988	49	45	--	6
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1988	43	44	5	8
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1984	49	43	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : March 1980	54	32	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1978	53	36	--	11
<i>Wash Post</i> : January 1978	40	39	--	21
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : November 1976	42	45	--	13
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1976 (RV)	49	37	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : September 1976 (RV)	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1976	42	43	--	15
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1976	41	43	--	16
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : April 1976	40	44	--	16

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,455]:

Q.41F1 In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on [RANDOMIZE: Cutting major programs / Increasing taxes] mostly focus on [increasing taxes / cutting major programs] or should we do a combination of both?

Sep 12-16		Nov 9-14	Jul 20-24	Apr 7-10	Dec 1-5
<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
16	Cutting major programs	17	19	20	16
6	Increasing taxes	8	8	6	4
69	Combination of both	62	60	64	65
1	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit (VOL.)	1	1	*	1
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	12	9	13

NO QUESTION 42

² In 1989 and earlier, CBS/NYT question read, "In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing less services or a bigger government providing more services?"

Q.43-Q.44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTION 45
Q.46, Q.49 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 47-48

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2,424]:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Sep 12-16, 2012	28	37	31	1	*	2	14	13
Jul 16-26, 2012	25	38	33	2	1	2	15	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	36	34	1	*	2	15	15
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	35	35	1	*	1	17	14
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	28	35	31	2	*	3	13	12
Apr 4-15, 2012	28	34	35	1	*	1	16	12
Mar 7-11, 2012	28	38	31	1	1	1	15	14
Feb 8-12, 2012	32	34	31	1	*	1	13	15
Jan 11-16, 2012	24	33	38	2	*	2	17	14
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	32	32	3	*	2	15	12

BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14

Yearly Totals

2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean</i> <i>Rep</i>	<i>Lean</i> <i>Dem</i>
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

QUESTIONS TEAPARTY2–SCALE10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED