

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST
June 16-19, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003

PEW.1-PEW.5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.1 As you may know, unless Congress and the president can agree to raise the federal debt limit soon, the government will not be able to borrow more money to fund its operations and pay its debts. If the limit is not raised, who do you think would mainly be responsible for this **[READ AND RANDOMIZE: the Obama Administration [or] the Republicans in Congress]**? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?¹

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2011

33	NET: The Obama administration
24	Strongly
10	Somewhat
42	NET: The Republicans in Congress
30	Strongly
12	Somewhat
13	Both (VOL.)
4	Neither (VOL.)
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

*If the federal government shuts down because **[RANDOMIZE: Republicans and the Obama administration]** can't agree on a budget, who do you think would be more to blame: **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS ABOVE: Republicans or the Obama administration]**?*

	<i>Washington Post</i> Mar 31-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	Pew Research Center/ <i>Washington Post</i> Feb 24-27 <u>2011</u>
Republicans	37	36
The Obama administration	37	35
Both equally (VOL.)	15	17
Neither (VOL.)	2	1
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	10

As you may know, the federal government has shut down many of its operations because the Clinton Administration and the Republicans in Congress have not agreed on a plan to keep it running while they work on a new budget. Whose fault do you think this mainly is—Clinton's or the Republicans' in Congress?

	<i>ABC News</i> Jan 3 <u>1996</u>	<i>ABC News/ Washington Post</i> Nov 19 <u>1995</u>
Clinton	25	24
Republicans	44	51
Both (VOL.)	24	20
Neither (VOL.)	3	1
No opinion	3	4

¹ PEWWP.1 asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.

PEWWP.1 CONTINUED (TRENDS FOR COMPARISON)

There's a possibility the federal government might have to shut down in the next few days because the Clinton Administration and the Republicans in Congress can't agree on a plan to keep it running while they work on a new budget. Whose fault do you think this mainly is—Clinton's or the Republicans' in Congress?

	<i>ABC News/Washington Post</i>
	Nov 10-13
	<u>1995</u>
Clinton	27
Republicans	46
Both (VOL.)	20
Neither (VOL.)	2
No opinion	5

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 16-19, 2011, among a national sample of 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (670 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 333 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 128 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. 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. 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/detailed>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the 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	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,003	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	266	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	284	7.0 percentage points
Independents	368	6.5 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.