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Is Debt Ceiling Fix Essential? 47% Yes, 39% No

Partisans Dug in on Budget, Health Care Impasse

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Is Debt Ceiling Fix Essential? 47% Yes, 39% No Partisans Dug in on Budget, Health Care Impasse

Nearly a week into the first government shutdown in more than 17 years, most Americans express frustration and concern about the situation. Yet on the core issue dividing Republicans and Democrats in Washington – whether cuts or delays to the 2010 health care law should be part of any budget deal – there is little support for compromise among members of either party.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 3-6 among 1,000 adults, finds 44% say Republican leaders should give ground on their demand that any budget deal include cuts or delays to the 2010 health care law. Nearly as many (42%) say it is Obama who should give ground, by agreeing to changes in the health care law.

Even when asked if the *only* way to end the shutdown soon is for their side to give ground on the health care issue, most are unwilling to back down. A majority of Democrats (58%) say it would be unacceptable for Obama to agree to cuts or

delays in the Affordable Care Act, even if this is the only way to resolve the shutdown soon. Roughly the same share of Republicans (54%) say it would be unacceptable for GOP leaders to agree to any deal that does not include cuts or delays to Obamacare.

Who Should Give Ground in Budget Disagreement?

| <i>In shutdown disagreement ...</i> | Total % | Rep % | Dem % | Ind % | Among Rep/Rep leaners | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | Tea Party % | Not Tea % |
| Obama should agree to deal that includes changes in health care law | 42 | 77 | 18 | 40 | 88 | 63 |
| <i>If only way to end shutdown is for Reps to drop health care changes, would this be ...</i> | | | | | | |
| Acceptable | 14 | 20 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 21 |
| Unacceptable | 26 | 54 | 7 | 25 | 72 | 39 |
| Don't know | 2 | 3 | * | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Republicans should agree to deal w/ no health care changes | 44 | 14 | 75 | 43 | 7 | 24 |
| <i>If only way to end shutdown is for Obama to agree to health care changes, would this be ...</i> | | | | | | |
| Acceptable | 13 | 9 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 15 |
| Unacceptable | 29 | 4 | 58 | 24 | 2 | 8 |
| Don't know | 2 | * | 2 | 3 | 0 | * |
| Don't know | <u>14</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>13</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 3-6, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Notably, Tea Party Republicans overwhelmingly oppose Republican leaders making concessions to resolve the impasse. Nearly nine-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party (88%) say Obama should agree to cuts or delays in the health care law and 72% think it would be unacceptable for GOP leaders to agree to a deal that does not include those changes, even if it is the only way to quickly end the shutdown. Among non-Tea Party Republicans, 63% say Obama should agree to changes in the health care law, but only 39% feel it would be unacceptable for GOP leaders to drop their demand for health care changes.

As other recent polls have shown, there is broad public support for a compromise on the government shutdown when explicit tradeoffs and concessions are not mentioned. Fully 61% say lawmakers who share their views about the government shutdown should be willing to make compromises, even if it results in a deal they disagree with; just 29% say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles, even if that means the shutdown lasts longer. Yet finding the middle ground on the issue of cuts or delays to the health care law is clearly more difficult.

The survey also finds that Republicans are taking more blame for the shutdown than the Obama administration, but only by a slim margin. By 38% to 30%, more say that Republicans are to blame for the government shutdown than the Obama administration; 19% volunteer that both sides are equally to blame. Two weeks ago, about as many said they *would* blame Republicans (39%) as the Obama administration (36%) *if* the federal government shut down.

More Blame Republicans than Obama for Shutdown

| | Sept 19-22 | Oct 3-6 | Change |
|--|---------------|------------|--------|
| <i>More to blame for shutdown* ...</i> | % | % | |
| Obama administration | 36 | 30 | -6 |
| Republicans | 39 | 38 | -1 |
| Both | 17 | 19 | +2 |
| Neither/DK | <u>8</u> | <u>13</u> | +5 |
| | 100 | 100 | |

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* Sept. 19-22, 2013 survey asked about who would be more to blame.

Polling in the early days of the 1995 government shutdown was much more lopsided: For example, a Nov. 1995 Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY survey found more blaming Republicans in Congress than Bill Clinton by a 22-point margin (47% vs. 25%).

More disapprove than approve of the way that all sides – Barack Obama, Democratic leaders and Republican leaders – are handling the negotiations over the shutdown. However, the percentage disapproving of Republican leaders' handling of the situation (69% disapprove) is higher than for Democratic leaders (58%) or Obama (50%).

Four-in-Ten Say Nation Can Go Past Debt Limit Deadline

With the nation rapidly approaching its borrowing limit – possibly as soon as Oct. 17, [according to Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew](#) – 47% say it is “absolutely essential that the federal debt limit be raised to avoid an economic crisis.” Yet roughly four-in-ten (39%) are skeptical saying “the country can go past the deadline for raising the debt limit without major economic problems.”

Opinion about raising the debt limit was more evenly divided in [July 2011](#), a few weeks before the last major showdown over the issue. At that time, 40% viewed a debt limit increase as absolutely essential in order to avoid a crisis, while nearly as many (39%) said it would not pose major problems.

Partisan differences over raising the debt limit are similar to two years ago: 62% of Democrats think it is absolutely essential to increase the debt limit, compared with 45% of independents and 36% of Republicans. Republicans and GOP leaners who do not agree with the Tea Party (40%) are much more likely than Tea Party Republicans (23%) to view a debt limit hike as absolutely essential.

By 47%-39%, More See Debt Limit Hike as Essential

Raising debt limit by deadline ...

| | Absolutely essential to avoid crisis | Can go past deadline w/out major problems | DK |
|------------------------------------|---|--|-----------|
| | % | % | % |
| Total | 47 | 39 | 15=100 |
| College grad+ | 52 | 32 | 16=100 |
| Some college | 47 | 41 | 12=100 |
| HS or less | 43 | 41 | 16=100 |
| Republican | 36 | 54 | 11=100 |
| Democrat | 62 | 28 | 10=100 |
| Independent | 45 | 38 | 17=100 |
| <i>Among Reps/ Rep-leaners</i> | | | |
| Tea Party | 23 | 64 | 13=100 |
| Non-Tea Party | 40 | 47 | 14=100 |

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 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Views of Impact of Government Shutdown

Most Americans say they are very (48%) or somewhat (29%) concerned about the effect of the government shutdown on the economy. Only about a quarter (22%) say they are not too concerned or not concerned at all about the economic impact of the shutdown.

Majorities of Democrats, people with lower family incomes (less than \$30,000), women and older Americans (65 and older) say they are very concerned about the economic effects of the shutdown. Far fewer Republicans, people with higher incomes, men and young people (under 30) express a great deal of concern.

Among Tea Party Republicans, a plurality (45%) expresses little or no concern about the economic effects of a government shutdown. A plurality of non-Tea Party Republicans say they are very concerned about the shutdown's economic impact.

Wide Partisan Gap in Concern over Shutdown's Economic Impact

| <i>Concerned about shutdown's econ impact ...</i> | Very % | Some- what % | Not too/ at all % | DK % |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Total | 48 | 29 | 22 | 1=100 |
| Men | 41 | 28 | 30 | 1=100 |
| Women | 55 | 29 | 15 | *=100 |
| 18-29 | 38 | 37 | 24 | 1=100 |
| 30-49 | 48 | 29 | 23 | *=100 |
| 50-64 | 52 | 25 | 22 | 1=100 |
| 65+ | 55 | 23 | 23 | 0=100 |
| <i>Family income</i> | | | | |
| \$75,000 or more | 47 | 29 | 23 | 1=100 |
| \$30,000-\$75,000 | 43 | 31 | 26 | *=100 |
| Less than \$30,000 | 60 | 26 | 14 | 1=100 |
| Republican | 39 | 31 | 30 | 0=100 |
| Democrat | 59 | 31 | 10 | 0=100 |
| Independent | 45 | 28 | 26 | *=100 |
| <i>Among Reps/ Rep-leaning</i> | | | | |
| Tea Party | 25 | 30 | 45 | 0=100 |
| Non-Tea Party | 45 | 29 | 26 | 0=100 |

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While there are sizable partisan and demographic gaps in concern over the economic effects of the shutdown, there are smaller differences in the percentages saying they have been *personally* inconvenienced by the federal government shutdown. Overall, 28% say they or a member of their family have been inconvenienced, which is far higher than the percentage saying this during the last shutdown of the federal government, in January 1996 (16%).

Today, more people across most partisan and demographic categories say they have been personally inconvenienced by the shutdown of the federal government. About as many Republicans (32%) as Democrats or independents (28% each) say they or a family member have been personally inconvenienced by the shutdown.

Personally Inconvenienced by the Government Shutdown?

| | Jan 1996 | Oct 2013 | Change |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| | % | % | |
| NET Inconvenienced | 16 | 28 | +12 |
| Major | 7 | 15 | +8 |
| Minor/DK | 9 | 13 | +4 |
| Not inconvenienced | 84 | 71 | -13 |
| Don't know | * | 1 | |
| | 100 | 100 | |

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 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Shutdown's Personal Impact

| <i>Personally inconvenienced by shutdown ...</i> | Oct 2013 % |
|--|------------------|
| Total | 28 |
| 18-29 | 27 |
| 30-49 | 33 |
| 50-64 | 30 |
| 65+ | 17 |
| Republican | 32 |
| Democrat | 28 |
| Independent | 28 |
| <i>Among Rep/ Rep leaners</i> | |
| Tea Party | 28 |
| Non-Tea Party | 28 |

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One-in-Ten Have Contacted Officials or Signed a Petition

About one-in-ten Americans (13%) say they have contacted a public official or signed a petition to express their opinion about the shutdown, while 87% say they have not.

Public officials are hearing from those with many points of view about the government shutdown. About as many Republicans (15%) as Democrats (13%) or independents (14%) say they have expressed their opinion to a government official or signed a petition. But among Tea Party Republicans, 24% have done so, double the percentage among non-Tea Party Republicans (11%).

Those who are very concerned about the effect of the shutdown on the U.S. economy are twice as likely as those who are less concerned to say they have contacted a public official or have signed a petition to express their views; 18% of those who are very concerned have done so, compared with 9% of those who are less concerned.

Similarly, those who say they or a family member have been personally inconvenienced by the shutdown are more likely than those who have not been inconvenienced to say they have contacted a public official or signed a petition (19% vs. 11%).

Yet, public officials are also hearing from those who do not want lawmakers who share their views to compromise; 18% of those who want lawmakers to stand by their principles even if it means the government shutdown continues say they have contacted a public official or have signed a petition, compared with 12% of those who want lawmakers to compromise.

Nearly a Quarter of Tea Party Reps Have Voiced Shutdown Views

Contacted official or signed a petition to express opinion of shutdown?

| | Yes | No | DK |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | % | % | % |
| All adults | 13 | 87 | 0=100 |
| Republican (22%) | 15 | 85 | 0=100 |
| Democrat (29%) | 13 | 87 | 0=100 |
| Independent (42%) | 14 | 86 | 0=100 |
| <i>Among Reps/Rep leaners</i> | | | |
| Tea Party (35%) | 24 | 76 | 0=100 |
| Non-Tea Party (62%) | 11 | 89 | 0=100 |
| <i>What should lawmakers who share your views do?</i> | | | |
| Stand by principles, even if shutdown continues (29%) | 18 | 82 | 0=100 |
| Compromise, even on budget you disagree with (61%) | 12 | 88 | 0=100 |
| <i>Concern about shutdown's effect on U.S. economy</i> | | | |
| Very concerned (48%) | 18 | 82 | 0=100 |
| Less concerned (51%) | 9 | 91 | 0=100 |
| <i>Have you or a family member been personally inconvenienced by the shutdown?</i> | | | |
| Yes (28%) | 19 | 81 | 0=100 |
| No (71%) | 11 | 89 | 0=100 |

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Few Republicans Say GOP Leaders Give Tea Party Too Much Attention

Overall, 35% of the public thinks that Republican leaders in Congress are paying too much attention to the ideas and the positions of the Tea Party compared with somewhat fewer (26%) who say they are paying too little attention; 19% say Republican leaders are paying the right amount of attention to the Tea Party and another 19% do not offer an opinion. This is a modest shift from August of 2011 – following that year’s standoff over the debt ceiling – when as many said Republican leaders were paying too little attention to the Tea Party (31%) as too much (30%).

By more than two-to-one, more Democrats say Republican leaders are paying too much attention to the Tea Party than too little (58%-25%). The percentage of Democrats saying the GOP is paying too much attention to the Tea Party is up 11 points since 2011.

By contrast, just 18% of Republicans believe their leaders are paying too much attention to the Tea Party; that is up slightly from 13% two years ago. Instead, most Republicans feel the party’s leaders are either paying the right amount (40%) or too little (24%) attention to the positions of the Tea Party.

To be sure, the share of Republicans who think the Tea Party gets too little attention has fallen: in 2011 37% thought the Tea Party did not receive enough attention from party leaders while just 24% say that today. Even among Tea Party Republicans this sentiment has waned: in 2011 55% of Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party said their movement got too little attention, compared with 40% today.

Are GOP Leaders Paying Too Much Attention to the Tea Party?

| <i>Attention Rep leaders paying to Tea Party ...</i> | Aug 2011 | Oct 2013 | Change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | % | % | |
| Too much | 30 | 35 | +5 |
| Too little | 31 | 26 | -5 |
| Right amount | 20 | 19 | -1 |
| Don't know | <u>20</u> | <u>19</u> | -1 |
| | 100 | 100 | |

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Few Republicans Say Tea Party Gets Too Much Attention

| <i>Attention Rep leaders paying to Tea Party ...</i> | Too much | Too little | Right amount | DK |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Total | 35 | 26 | 19 | 19=100 |
| Republican | 18 | 24 | 40 | 18=100 |
| Democrat | 58 | 25 | 7 | 9=100 |
| Independent | 32 | 28 | 18 | 22=100 |
| <i>Among Rep/Rep leaners</i> | | | | |
| Tea Party | 6 | 40 | 41 | 13=100 |
| Non-Tea Party | 22 | 21 | 34 | 22=100 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 3-6, 2013.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Yet concern within the GOP that the Tea Party has too much influence remains limited: even among Republicans and Republican leaners who do not agree with the Tea Party movement, more than half say either that the GOP is paying the right amount of attention (34%) to the ideas of the Tea Party or too little (21%). Just 22% of non-Tea Party Republicans say the movement receives too much attention from the Republican Party.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 3-6, 2013, among a national sample of 1,000 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 500 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 250 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/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 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 sample | 1,000 | 3.7 percentage points |
| Republicans | 227 | 7.8 percentage points |
| Democrats | 299 | 6.8 percentage points |
| Independents | 418 | 5.8 percentage points |
| Among Rep/Rep Lean | | |
| Tea Party | 165 | 9.2 percentage points |
| Non-Tea Party | 224 | 7.9 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.

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October 3-6, 2013 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The shutdown of the federal government | | | | | |
| October 3-6, 2013 | 43 | 30 | 15 | 11 | * |
| September 25-29, 2013: <i>Congress working on a budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September</i> | 36 | 25 | 16 | 23 | * |
| September 19-22, 2013 | 25 | 24 | 21 | 30 | 1 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| March 14-17, 2013: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i> | 24 | 26 | 20 | 29 | 1 |
| March 7-10, 2013: <i>Automatic spending cuts that began on March 1st</i> | 31 | 26 | 18 | 25 | 1 |
| February 21-24, 2013: <i>News about automatic cuts to federal spending that will take effect next week, unless the president and Congress act</i> | 25 | 26 | 19 | 29 | 1 |
| January 24-27, 2013: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i> | 23 | 28 | 19 | 29 | 1 |
| December 13-16, 2012: <i>The debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the President and Congress act</i> | 37 | 28 | 16 | 18 | 1 |
| December 6-9, 2012 | 37 | 26 | 17 | 20 | 1 |
| November 29-December 2, 2012 | 40 | 26 | 14 | 20 | 1 |
| November 15-18, 2012 | 33 | 24 | 16 | 25 | 1 |
| November 8-11, 2012 | 38 | 20 | 20 | 20 | * |
| July 19-22, 2012 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 33 | 1 |
| November 3-6, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i> | 24 | 31 | 21 | 24 | 1 |
| October 27-30, 2011 | 25 | 28 | 21 | 25 | 1 |
| October 13-16, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i> | 29 | 32 | 15 | 24 | 1 |
| September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>Congress working on a budget extension to avoid a government shutdown</i> | 31 | 26 | 20 | 22 | * |
| September 22-25, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i> | 35 | 26 | 19 | 19 | 1 |
| September 15-18, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation</i> | 31 | 28 | 19 | 21 | 2 |
| September 8-11, 2011: <i>Barack Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress</i> | 28 | 18 | 17 | 36 | 1 |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| July 28-31, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i> | 41 | 27 | 15 | 17 | * |
| July 21-24, 2011 | 38 | 28 | 17 | 17 | * |
| July 14-17, 2011 | 34 | 29 | 18 | 19 | * |
| June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i> | 24 | 26 | 22 | 28 | * |
| June 2-5, 2011 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 31 | * |
| May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i> | 25 | 26 | 20 | 29 | * |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 21 | 26 | 24 | 28 | 1 |
| May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i> | 29 | 28 | 22 | 20 | 1 |
| April 21-25, 2011 | 30 | 31 | 18 | 21 | * |
| April 14-17, 2011 | 36 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i> | 47 | 26 | 15 | 12 | * |
| March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i> | 30 | 27 | 21 | 22 | * |
| March 17-20, 2011 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 1 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 26 | 29 | 19 | 26 | 1 |
| February 17-20, 2011 | 27 | 30 | 17 | 25 | 1 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 35 | 25 | 21 | 17 | 2 |
| December 2-5, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president</i> | 39 | 26 | 17 | 17 | 1 |
| November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i> | 15 | 21 | 21 | 41 | 1 |
| September 16-19, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans</i> | 21 | 24 | 21 | 34 | * |
| September 9-12, 2010 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 42 | 1 |
| May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i> | 22 | 28 | 19 | 31 | * |
| March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i> | 28 | 34 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i> | 41 | 32 | 13 | 14 | * |
| February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i> | 47 | 34 | 9 | 10 | * |
| February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plan to help homeowners facing foreclosure which could cost as much as \$275 billion</i> | 31 | 36 | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| February 20-23, 2009: <i>The \$780 billion economic stimulus legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama</i> | 41 | 37 | 14 | 8 | * |
| February 13-16, 2009: <i>Congress passing Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i> | 50 | 32 | 13 | 5 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 6-9, 2009: <i>The debate in Congress over Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i> | 41 | 33 | 15 | 11 | * |
| January 30-February 2, 2009 | 36 | 29 | 22 | 13 | * |
| January 16-19, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over what the government should do about the nation's economic problems</i> | 35 | 33 | 17 | 15 | * |
| January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i> | 35 | 30 | 19 | 16 | * |
| December 19-22, 2008: <i>The Bush administration's plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i> | 37 | 33 | 16 | 13 | 1 |
| December 12-15, 2008: <i>The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i> | 40 | 33 | 18 | 9 | * |
| December 5-8, 2008: <i>The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i> | 34 | 38 | 17 | 11 | * |
| November 21-24, 2008 | 41 | 26 | 17 | 15 | 1 |
| October 3-6, 2008: <i>The debate in Washington over a plan to use government funds to stabilize financial markets</i> | 62 | 26 | 7 | 5 | * |
| September 26-29, 2008 | 60 | 22 | 10 | 8 | * |
| September 12-15, 2008: <i>The federal government taking control of the mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac</i> | 28 | 35 | 19 | 17 | 1 |
| March 20-24, 2008: <i>The buyout of Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns</i> | 21 | 26 | 21 | 32 | * |
| February 8-11, 2008: <i>President Bush and Congress agreeing on an economic Stimulus plan</i> | 22 | 33 | 23 | 21 | 1 |
| January 25-28, 2008 | 24 | 36 | 19 | 21 | * |
| February, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i> | 26 | 33 | 23 | 16 | 2 |
| February, 2003 | 26 | 33 | 23 | 16 | 2 |
| January, 2003 | 28 | 34 | 21 | 15 | 2 |
| February, 2002: <i>The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i> | 17 | 31 | 28 | 23 | 1 |
| April, 2001 | 24 | 38 | 20 | 18 | * |
| February, 2001: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut plan</i> | 31 | 35 | 19 | 14 | 1 |
| August, 1997: <i>The debate in Washington about the federal budget</i> | 14 | 34 | 25 | 26 | 1 |
| May, 1997 | 16 | 38 | 23 | 22 | 1 |
| February, 1997 | 19 | 28 | 22 | 29 | 2 |
| March, 1996 | 24 | 35 | 23 | 18 | * |
| January, 1996 | 32 | 42 | 17 | 9 | * |
| September, 1995 | 20 | 35 | 27 | 18 | * |
| August, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the federal budget</i> | 18 | 34 | 27 | 20 | 1 |
| February, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the Balanced Budget Amendment</i> | 12 | 31 | 28 | 28 | 1 |
| August, 1993: <i>The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget bill</i> | 30 | 36 | 21 | 13 | * |
| June, 1993 | 12 | 38 | 31 | 18 | 1 |
| February, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's economic plan</i> | 49 | 36 | 10 | 5 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| September, 1992 (RV): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i> | 28 | 44 | 18 | 9 | 1 |
| November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i> | 34 | 33 | 20 | 11 | 2 |
| October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i> | 34 | 37 | 17 | 12 | * |
| August, 1989: <i>Passage of a bill to bailout ailing savings and loan institutions</i> | 26 | 30 | 20 | 23 | 1 |
| b. News about health insurance exchanges opening around the country as part of the 2010 health care law | | | | | |
| October 3-6, 2013 | 33 | 24 | 22 | 20 | 1 |
| August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>News about parts of the health care law that are about to take effect</i> | 23 | 25 | 21 | 30 | * |
| July 18-21, 2013 | 25 | 25 | 19 | 30 | * |
| June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the 2010 health care law</i> | 45 | 21 | 14 | 19 | * |
| March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law</i> | 29 | 27 | 17 | 27 | * |
| November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i> | 18 | 24 | 24 | 33 | 1 |
| February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i> | 25 | 28 | 19 | 28 | 1 |
| January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i> | 29 | 29 | 20 | 21 | 1 |
| December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i> | 28 | 24 | 17 | 30 | 1 |
| September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i> | 37 | 31 | 17 | 14 | 1 |
| April 16-19, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i> | 40 | 30 | 16 | 14 | * |
| April 9-12, 2010 | 46 | 27 | 15 | 12 | * |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 42 | 27 | 14 | 16 | * |
| March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i> | 49 | 29 | 12 | 10 | * |
| March 19-22, 2010 | 51 | 24 | 11 | 14 | * |
| March 12-15, 2010 | 40 | 31 | 16 | 13 | * |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 42 | 27 | 17 | 15 | * |
| February 26-March 1, 2010 | 29 | 29 | 19 | 22 | * |
| February 19-22, 2010 | 33 | 28 | 19 | 19 | * |
| January 29-February 1, 2010 | 39 | 27 | 16 | 17 | * |
| January 22-25, 2010 | 41 | 32 | 15 | 11 | * |
| January 15-18, 2010 | 37 | 27 | 19 | 18 | * |
| January 8-11, 2010 | 39 | 26 | 20 | 15 | * |
| December 18-21, 2009 | 42 | 27 | 16 | 14 | * |
| December 11-14, 2009 | 42 | 30 | 15 | 14 | * |
| December 4-7, 2009 | 42 | 28 | 15 | 14 | 1 |
| November 20-23, 2009 | 42 | 29 | 14 | 15 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| November 13-16, 2009 | 38 | 26 | 17 | 17 | 1 |
| November 6-9, 2009 | 35 | 28 | 15 | 22 | 1 |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 32 | 26 | 19 | 23 | * |
| October 23-26, 2009 | 40 | 27 | 16 | 17 | 1 |
| October 16-19, 2009 | 36 | 28 | 15 | 21 | * |
| October 9-12, 2009 | 37 | 29 | 14 | 19 | 1 |
| October 2-5, 2009 | 39 | 29 | 16 | 16 | * |
| September 25-28, 2009 | 45 | 31 | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| September 18-21, 2009 | 44 | 26 | 19 | 11 | * |
| September 11-14, 2009 | 44 | 27 | 14 | 15 | * |
| September 3-6, 2009 | 40 | 26 | 16 | 17 | 0 |
| August 28-31, 2009 | 40 | 28 | 17 | 14 | 1 |
| August 21-24, 2009 | 49 | 24 | 12 | 15 | 1 |
| August 14-17, 2009 | 39 | 31 | 15 | 15 | 1 |
| August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i> | 40 | 27 | 17 | 15 | 1 |
| July 31-August 3, 2009 | 47 | 26 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| July 24-27, 2009 | 44 | 28 | 15 | 13 | * |
| July 17-20, 2009 | 33 | 31 | 13 | 21 | 2 |
| July 10-13, 2009 | 24 | 29 | 20 | 27 | * |
| June 26-29, 2009 | 29 | 26 | 20 | 25 | 1 |
| June 19-22, 2009 | 28 | 28 | 20 | 23 | * |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 29 | 26 | 18 | 26 | * |
| May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i> | 25 | 30 | 20 | 24 | * |
| March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i> | 41 | 32 | 13 | 14 | * |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i> | 32 | 41 | 18 | 9 | * |
| June, 1994 | 34 | 40 | 19 | 7 | * |
| May, 1994 | 37 | 37 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| January, 1994 | 38 | 38 | 15 | 9 | * |
| Early January, 1994 | 40 | 40 | 14 | 6 | * |
| December, 1993 | 45 | 35 | 12 | 7 | 1 |
| October, 1993 | 44 | 32 | 17 | 6 | 1 |
| September, 1993 | 49 | 34 | 11 | 6 | * |
| August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i> | 27 | 32 | 25 | 15 | 1 |
| June, 1993 | 28 | 38 | 19 | 15 | * |
| May, 1993 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 14 | 1 |
| c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy | | | | | |
| October 3-6, 2013 | 34 | 30 | 19 | 16 | 1 |
| September 25-29, 2013 | 35 | 30 | 16 | 18 | * |
| September 19-22, 2013 | 28 | 33 | 20 | 19 | 1 |
| September 12-15, 2013 | 28 | 34 | 17 | 20 | * |
| August 1-4, 2013 | 28 | 35 | 19 | 17 | 1 |
| July 18-21, 2013 | 28 | 29 | 20 | 23 | 1 |
| June 20-23, 2013 | 28 | 30 | 19 | 22 | 1 |
| June 13-16, 2013 | 30 | 32 | 15 | 22 | * |
| June 6-9, 2013 | 33 | 31 | 15 | 21 | * |
| May 16-19, 2013 | 30 | 31 | 20 | 19 | * |
| May 9-12, 2013 | 28 | 30 | 21 | 20 | 1 |
| March 28-31, 2013 | 30 | 30 | 17 | 22 | 1 |
| March 7-10, 2013 | 35 | 30 | 16 | 19 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 31-February 3, 2013 | 33 | 33 | 16 | 16 | 1 |
| January 17-20, 2013 | 36 | 32 | 15 | 16 | * |
| January 3-6, 2013 | 34 | 32 | 18 | 16 | 1 |
| December 6-9, 2012 | 38 | 30 | 16 | 14 | 1 |
| November 8-11, 2012 | 41 | 31 | 15 | 12 | 1 |
| November 1-4, 2012 | 38 | 30 | 16 | 14 | 1 |
| October 25-28, 2012 | 44 | 30 | 14 | 11 | 1 |
| October 18-21, 2012 | 39 | 36 | 12 | 12 | 1 |
| October 12-14, 2012 | 42 | 28 | 14 | 15 | 1 |
| October 4-7, 2012 | 40 | 29 | 13 | 17 | * |
| September 27-30, 2012 | 34 | 37 | 13 | 15 | 1 |
| September 20-23, 2012 | 36 | 32 | 17 | 15 | * |
| September 13-16, 2012 | 38 | 32 | 17 | 12 | 1 |
| September 7-9, 2012 | 36 | 31 | 17 | 15 | 2 |
| August 31-September 3, 2012 | 33 | 31 | 20 | 16 | 1 |
| August 23-26, 2012 | 38 | 30 | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| August 16-19, 2012 | 33 | 32 | 16 | 19 | * |
| August 9-12, 2012 | 30 | 31 | 20 | 18 | 1 |
| August 2-5, 2012 | 33 | 29 | 20 | 17 | 1 |
| July 26-29, 2012 | 32 | 30 | 20 | 19 | * |
| July 19-22, 2012 | 39 | 29 | 16 | 16 | * |
| July 12-15, 2012 | 32 | 33 | 18 | 17 | 1 |
| July 5-8, 2012 | 34 | 28 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| June 28-July 1, 2012 | 38 | 28 | 15 | 18 | 1 |
| June 21-24, 2012 | 33 | 32 | 17 | 17 | * |
| June 14-17, 2012 | 39 | 28 | 15 | 17 | * |
| June 7-10, 2012 | 35 | 32 | 15 | 18 | * |
| May 31-June 3, 2012 | 37 | 34 | 13 | 14 | 1 |
| May 24-27, 2012 | 33 | 31 | 19 | 16 | 1 |
| May 17-20, 2012 | 35 | 30 | 16 | 19 | * |
| May 10-13, 2012 | 40 | 26 | 16 | 17 | * |
| May 3-6, 2012 | 38 | 29 | 13 | 20 | * |
| April 26-29, 2012 | 34 | 32 | 17 | 16 | 1 |
| April 19-22, 2012 | 35 | 35 | 13 | 14 | 2 |
| April 12-15, 2012 | 39 | 28 | 16 | 17 | 1 |
| April 5-8, 2012 | 37 | 31 | 16 | 16 | 1 |
| March 29-April 1, 2012 | 34 | 33 | 15 | 18 | 1 |
| March 22-25, 2012 | 36 | 29 | 16 | 18 | 1 |
| March 15-18, 2012 | 40 | 35 | 11 | 14 | 1 |
| March 8-11, 2012 | 37 | 32 | 14 | 17 | * |
| March 1-4, 2012 | 41 | 27 | 15 | 17 | 1 |
| February 23-26, 2012 | 37 | 33 | 14 | 15 | 1 |
| February 16-20, 2012 | 33 | 32 | 16 | 17 | 1 |
| February 9-12, 2012 | 42 | 30 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| February 2-5, 2012 | 38 | 32 | 16 | 13 | 1 |
| January 26-29, 2012 | 35 | 31 | 16 | 19 | * |
| January 19-22, 2012 | 35 | 30 | 16 | 19 | 1 |
| January 12-15, 2012 | 33 | 32 | 14 | 20 | 1 |
| January 5-8, 2012 | 39 | 31 | 15 | 15 | * |

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2013/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

NO QUESTION PEW.2

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Who do you think is more to blame for the federal government shutdown -- **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or **[ITEM]**?

| Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u> | | Sep 19-22 <u>2013</u> ¹ |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 38 | Republicans | 39 |
| 30 | The Obama administration | 36 |
| 19 | Both equally (VOL.) | 17 |
| 2 | Neither (VOL.) | 2 |
| 11 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 6 |

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Monday night, the federal government was partially shut down when President Clinton and the Republican leaders in Congress could not agree on a resolution to keep the government running while they debated the federal budget. Who do you blame more for the partial government shutdown -- the Republicans in Congress or Bill Clinton?

| CBS News Nov 19 <u>1995</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 51 | Republicans in Congress |
| 28 | Clinton |
| 15 | Both equally (VOL.) |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

Overall, who do you blame more for the recent shutdown of the federal government – President Clinton or the Republican leaders in Congress?

| Gallup/CNN/USA Today Nov 17-18 <u>1995</u> | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 25 | Clinton |
| 47 | Republican leaders |
| 21 | Both equally (VOL.) |
| 1 | Neither (VOL.) |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

NO QUESTION PEW.4**ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is handling negotiations over the government shutdown?

| | | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u> |
|----|---|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. | Barack Obama Oct 3-6, 2013 | 38 | 50 | 12 |
| b. | Republican leaders in Congress Oct 3-6, 2013 | 19 | 69 | 12 |
| c. | Democratic leaders in Congress Oct 3-6, 2013 | 29 | 58 | 13 |

NO QUESTIONS PEW.6-PEW.7

¹ In September the question was worded "If the federal government shuts down because Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a budget, who do you think would be more to blame?" It was asked on the same survey as the National Journal's Congressional Connection poll, also released Sept. 23, 2013.

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 In the current debate over the government shutdown, what would you like lawmakers who share your views to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| | | --- Gallup --- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oct 3-6 2013 | | Sep 19-22 2013 ² | Mar 30-Apr 3 2011 ³ | Feb 2011 ⁴ | Aug 1995 ⁵ |
| 29 | Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shutdown continues [OR] | 33 | 36 | 32 | 35 |
| 61 | Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they reach a deal you disagree with | 57 | 55 | 60 | 60 |
| 10 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 10 | 10 | 8 | 5 |

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

How much, if anything, have you heard about the possibility that the federal government might go into default if Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a plan to raise the federal debt limit by August second?

What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| Jul 20-24 2011 | |
|-------------------|--|
| 23 | Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government goes into default [OR] |
| 68 | Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they strike a deal you disagree with |
| 8 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.9 How concerned, if at all, are you about the government shutdown's effect on the U.S. economy? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

| Oct 3-6 2013 | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 48 | Very concerned |
| 29 | Somewhat concerned |
| 14 | Not too concerned |
| 9 | Not at all concerned |
| 1 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

NO QUESTIONS PEW.10-PEW.11

² In Sept. 2013 the question was worded "If there is not a budget agreement by the end of September the federal government will have to shut down many of its operations until a budget is passed. What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

³ In April 2011, the question was worded: "If there is not a budget agreement by the end of next week the federal government will have to shut down nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

⁴ In February 2011, the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Obama do not agree on federal spending goals by March 4, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like the people in government who represent your views on the budget to do in this situation? Should they hold out for the basic budget plan they want, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they agree to a compromise budget plan, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

⁵ In August 1995 the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Clinton do not agree on federal spending goals this fall, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. How would you like the people in government who represent your point of view toward the budget to act in this situation — should they stand by their principles throughout the debate, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise in the debate, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

ASK ALL:

PEW.12 Have you or a member of your family been personally inconvenienced by the shutdown of the federal government? **[ASK IF "YES": "Was it a major inconvenience or a minor inconvenience?"]**

| Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u> | | Jan <u>1996</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 28 | NET Inconvenienced | 16 |
| 15 | Yes, major | 7 |
| 13 | Yes, minor/DK | 9 |
| 71 | No, not inconvenienced | 84 |
| 1 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | * |

ASK ALL:

PEW.13 Have you contacted a public official or signed a petition to express your opinion about the shutdown, or not?

| Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u> | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 13 | Yes |
| 87 | No |
| 0 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

NO QUESTION PEW.14**ASK ALL:**

PEW.15 As you may know, the main point of disagreement in the government shutdown is over whether changes to the 2010 health care law should be included in a budget deal. **[RANDOMIZE: Obama has said any budget deal must NOT include cuts or delays to the health care law because they are separate issues. / Republican leaders have said that any budget deal must include cuts or delays to the health care law because the law is bad for the country.]** Who do you think should give ground in this disagreement? **[RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER]**

IF OBAMA SHOULD GIVE GROUND (PEW.15=1) [N=425]:

PEW.16 If the only way to end the shutdown soon is for Republican leaders to agree to a bill without cuts or delays to the health care law, would this be acceptable or unacceptable to you

IF REPUBLICANS SHOULD GIVE GROUND (PEW.15=2) [N=446]:

PEW.17 If the only way to end the shutdown soon is for Obama to agree to a bill that includes cuts or delays to the health care law, would this be acceptable or unacceptable to you?

BASED ON TOTAL:

| Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u> | |
|------------------------|---|
| 42 | Should Obama agree to a bill that INCLUDES cuts or delays to the health care law |
| 14 | Acceptable if Republicans agree to bill without cuts or delays |
| 26 | Unacceptable if Republicans agree to bill without cuts or delays |
| 2 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| | [OR] |
| 44 | Should Republican leaders agree to a bill WITHOUT cuts or delays to the health care law |
| 13 | Acceptable if Obama agrees to bill with cuts or delays |
| 29 | Unacceptable if Obama agrees to bill with cuts or delays |
| 2 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 14 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.18 As you may know, the deadline to raise the nation's debt limit is also approaching, as soon as October 17th. From what you've read and heard, do you think **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**, or do you think **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**?

| Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u> | | Jul 15-17 <u>2011</u> ⁶ |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 47 | It is absolutely essential that the federal debt limit be raised to avoid an economic crisis [OR] | 40 |
| 39 | The country can go past the deadline for raising the debt limit without major economic problems | 39 |
| 15 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 21 |

ASK ALL:

PEW.19 And all in all, are Republican leaders in Congress paying too much attention, too little attention, or the right amount of attention to the ideas and positions of the Tea Party?

| Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u> | | Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u> | Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u> | Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 35 | Too much | 30 | 27 | 22 |
| 26 | Too little | 31 | 32 | 28 |
| 19 | Right amount | 20 | 23 | 25 |
| 19 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 20 | 19 | 25 |

6

In July 2011, the question was worded "From what you've read and heard, do you think it is absolutely essential that the federal debt limit be raised by August 2nd to avoid an economic crisis, or do you think the country can go past the August 2nd date for when the government reaches its debt limit without major economic problems?"