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# In Deficit Debate, Public Resists Cuts in Entitlements and Aid to Poor

*Half Would Cut Military Spending to  
Reduce Deficit*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# In Deficit Debate, Public Resists Cuts in Entitlements and Aid to the Poor

## *Half Would Cut Military Spending to Reduce Deficit*

As President Obama prepares to sign a bipartisan budget agreement that its proponents describe as a modest step toward addressing the deficit, the public shows little appetite for making some of the spending cuts often discussed as part of a broader “grand bargain” on the budget.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Dec. 3-8 among 2,001 adults, finds majorities say it is more important to maintain spending on Social Security and Medicare and programs to help the poor than to take steps to reduce the budget deficit. Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) say it is more important to maintain current Social Security and Medicare benefits than to reduce the deficit, while 59% prioritize keeping current levels of spending for programs that help the poor and needy over deficit reduction.

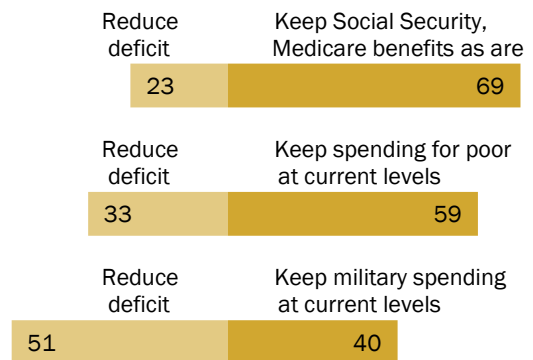
There is greater public support for cutting military spending in order to achieve deficit reduction. About half of Americans (51%) say reducing the deficit is more important than keeping military spending at current levels, while 40% say deficit reduction is more important.

Views of tradeoffs between government spending and deficit reduction are divided along partisan lines, and the differences are especially pronounced when it comes to programs that aid the poor and needy. Fully 84% of Democrats say it is more important to keep current spending levels for these programs than to reduce the deficit. A majority of Republicans (55%) say cutting the deficit is more important than maintaining current spending for programs to help the poor.

By contrast, majorities of Democrats (79%), independents (66%) and Republicans (62%) say it is more important to continue current spending levels for Social Security and Medicare than to take steps to reduce the budget deficit.

### Spending for Entitlements, Aid to Poor Favored over Deficit Reduction

% who say it is more important to ...



Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

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The survey finds that at a time when the nation's annual budget deficit has fallen considerably over the past year, according to the [Office of Management and Budget](#), most Americans do not think the country has made progress in reducing the deficit. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say the country has not made progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, while just 29% say progress has been achieved.

In general terms, the public continues to support a mix of spending cuts and tax increases to reduce the federal budget deficit. About six-in-ten (63%) say the best way to reduce the deficit is with a combination of cuts in major programs and tax increases; 20% say the primary focus should be on spending cuts and just 7% say it should be on raising taxes. Since 2010, majorities have supported a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, though last December somewhat more (74%) favored this approach.

## Wide Partisan Differences over Cuts in Aid to Poor, Military Spending

Republicans, by a 55%-to-35% margin, say it is more important to take steps to reduce the deficit than to preserve current spending on programs to aid the poor and needy. Fully 84% of Democrats and 53% of independents favor maintaining current levels of spending on aid to the poor over deficit reduction.

Tea Party Republicans, in particular, prioritize deficit reduction over programs to aid the poor. Nearly three-quarters of Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party (73%) say deficit reduction is more important than preserving present levels of spending on programs to aid the poor and needy. Just 48%

### Republicans Willing to Cut Aid to Poor to Reduce Deficit; Democrats Would Cut Military Spending

|   | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | R-D diff |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| <i>What is more important ...</i>                                   |       |     |     |     |          |
| Taking steps to reduce budget deficit                               | 33    | 55  | 11  | 38  | +44      |
| Keeping <u>spending for poor and needy</u> at current levels        | 59    | 35  | 84  | 53  | -49      |
| Both/Don't know   | 8     | 10  | 5   | 9   |          |
|   | 100   | 100 | 100 | 100 |          |
| Taking steps to reduce budget deficit                               | 51    | 36  | 60  | 53  | -24      |
| Keeping <u>military spending</u> at current levels                  | 40    | 53  | 33  | 40  | +20      |
| Both/Don't know   | 9     | 11  | 7   | 8   |          |
|   | 100   | 100 | 100 | 100 |          |
| Taking steps to reduce budget deficit                               | 23    | 29  | 16  | 25  | +13      |
| Keeping <u>Social Security, Medicare</u> benefits at current levels | 69    | 62  | 79  | 66  | -17      |
| Both/Don't know   | 8     | 9   | 5   | 8   |          |
|   | 100   | 100 | 100 | 100 |          |
| % saying more important to reduce deficit on all three measures     | 9     | 14  | 4   | 12  |          |

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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of non-Tea Party Republicans express this view, while about as many (44%) say that maintaining spending on these programs is more important.

There also are substantial partisan differences over whether it is more important to keep current levels of military spending or to reduce the deficit. In this case, most Democrats (60%) rate deficit reduction as more important, compared with 53% of independents and just 36% of Republicans. Liberal Democrats are especially likely to say it's more important to reduce the deficit (72%) than maintain military spending (21%); among conservative and moderate Democrats, 54% prioritize the deficit, 40% military spending.

Across party lines, the public is unwilling to cut Social Security and Medicare to take steps to reduce the deficit. This view is held by majorities of Democrats (79%), independents (66%) and Republicans (62%). However, there are differences among Republicans. Just 45% of Republicans and GOP leaners who agree with the Tea Party prioritize maintaining current levels of spending on Social Security and Medicare, compared with 66% of non-Tea Party Republicans.

In the current survey, there are very few consistent “deficit hawks” – those who prioritize the deficit over keeping current levels of spending in all three areas tested (military, aid to needy, Social Security and Medicare). Just 9% of the public consistently says deficit reduction is more important than the three areas of spending tested; this percentage is not much higher within the GOP (14%) or among Tea Party Republicans (18%).

## Support for Military Cuts among Young People

Support for reducing the deficit through cuts to the military is particularly high among young people, under the age of 30. By two-to-one, more young people say it's more important to take steps to reduce the deficit (64%) than to keep military spending at current levels (32%). By contrast, those ages 65 and older prioritize maintaining military spending over deficit reduction by a 55%-31% margin.

Within the GOP, Republicans and Republican leaners under age 50 are roughly divided, with 49% supporting deficit reduction and 42% maintaining military spending. Older Republicans are much more supportive of the military (60% maintain spending, 30% cut deficit).

A similar age gap exists within the Democratic Party. Democrats under 50 prioritize deficit reduction over military spending by a wide 71%-26% margin. Among older Democrats, that balance of opinion is more closely divided (51% reduce deficit, 41% maintain military spending).

There is less of an age divide when it comes to views of Social Security and Medicare benefits and deficit reduction. On entitlements, the youngest Americans (ages 18-29) prioritize maintaining Social Security and Medicare benefits over deficit reduction by a 61%-30%; among the oldest segment of the public, those ages 65 and older, 78% say it is more important to maintain benefits, while 14% say it is more important to reduce the deficit.

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### More Older Americans Prioritize Military Spending over Deficit Reduction

| <i>What is more important?</i> | <b>Reduce deficit</b> | <b>Maintain military spending</b> | <b>Both/DK</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
|                                | %                     | %                                 | %              |
| Total                          | 51                    | 40                                | 9=100          |
| 18-29                          | 64                    | 32                                | 5=100          |
| 30-49                          | 56                    | 34                                | 10=100         |
| 50-64                          | 48                    | 44                                | 8=100          |
| 65+                            | 31                    | 55                                | 14=100         |
| <i>Among Reps/Rep leaners</i>  |                       |                                   |                |
| 18-49                          | 49                    | 42                                | 9=100          |
| 50+                            | 30                    | 60                                | 10=100         |
| <i>Among Dems/Dem leaners</i>  |                       |                                   |                |
| 18-49                          | 71                    | 26                                | 3=100          |
| 50+                            | 51                    | 41                                | 9=100          |

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Income Differences in Views of Deficit and Spending

Deficit reduction is not as high a priority for lower-income households as for those earning more, especially when it comes to programs that help the poor and needy.

Those in households earning less than \$30,000 a year are divided when it comes to the deficit and military spending; about as many prioritize maintaining current spending (47%) as reducing the deficit (45%). By contrast, majorities in households earning \$30,000 a year or more say it's more important to reduce the deficit than maintain military spending.

There is strong support among lower-income households for maintaining programs that serve the poor and needy. Three-quarters of those in households earning less than \$30,000 a year say it is more important to keep spending for programs that help the poor at current levels; just 19% say it is more important to reduce the budget deficit. This view is held by a smaller 57% majority of those earning \$30,000-\$74,999; those who make \$75,000 a year or more divide about evenly between prioritizing deficit reduction (47%) and maintaining assistance to the needy (46%).

As it does with party affiliation, support for Social Security and Medicare benefits crosses income levels. Majorities in all income categories say it is more important to keep Social Security and Medicare spending at current levels than to take steps to reduce the deficit. Those earning less than \$30,000 a year say this by the most one-sided margin (78%-18%).

### Lower-Income Households Prioritize Spending over Deficit Reduction

|   | Family income |                   |           |
|---|---------------|-------------------|-----------|
|   | <\$30,000     | \$30,000-\$74,999 | \$75,000+ |
| <i>What is more important?</i>                        | %             | %                 | %         |
| Taking steps to reduce deficit                        | 19            | 34                | 47        |
| Keeping spending for poor and needy at current levels | 75            | 57                | 46        |
| Both/Don't know                                       | 6             | 9                 | 7         |
|   | 100           | 100               | 100       |
| Taking steps to reduce deficit                        | 45            | 52                | 61        |
| Keeping military spending at current levels           | 47            | 39                | 34        |
| Both/Don't know                                       | 7             | 9                 | 6         |
|   | 100           | 100               | 100       |
| Taking steps to reduce deficit                        | 18            | 23                | 31        |
| Keeping Social Security, Medicare benefits            | 78            | 69                | 61        |
| Both/Don't know                                       | 4             | 8                 | 8         |
|   | 100           | 100               | 100       |

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## GOP Divided in Views of Deficit, Programs to Aid Poor

Republicans are divided by income in views about whether it is more important to maintain current spending on programs to aid the poor or take steps to reduce the deficit. Among Republicans and Republican leaners with family incomes of less than \$50,000 a year, 48% say it is more important to maintain spending for the poor and needy, while 44% say deficit reduction is more important. Among those with incomes of at least \$50,000 a year, deficit reduction is the higher priority by a wide 72%-20% margin.

Republicans also differ over the other items tested, with higher-income households expressing greater levels of support for deficit reduction than those earning less. Democrats and Democratic leaners generally are less divided by income in views of spending and deficit reduction, though higher-income Democrats are more willing than those with lower incomes to accept cuts in military spending to reduce the deficit (74% vs. 54%).

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### Lower-Income Republicans Prioritize Aid to Poor over Deficit Reduction

*Based on Republicans and Republican leaners*

|   | Family income |          | Diff |
|---|---------------|----------|------|
|   | <\$50k        | \$50k+   |      |
| <i>More important ...</i>                             | %             | %        |      |
| Taking steps to reduce deficit                        | 44            | 72       | +28  |
| Keeping spending for poor and needy at current levels | 48            | 20       | -28  |
| Both/Don't know                                       | <u>8</u>      | <u>8</u> |      |
|   | 100           | 100      |      |

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Most Saw No Progress on Deficit in 2013

In a year that saw deep, automatic spending cuts as part of the budget sequestration, but failed to produce a long-term agreement addressing entitlements and the tax code, the public does not believe the country has made progress reducing the budget deficit. Two-thirds (66%) say that over the course of the last year, the country has not made progress reducing the budget deficit; just 29% say it has.

There is deep disagreement between Republicans and Democrats on whether or not the country has made progress on the deficit in the last year.

Half of Democrats (50%), including 60% of liberal Democrats, say the country has made progress reducing the budget deficit over the course of 2013. By contrast, nearly nine-in-ten Republicans (87%) say the country has not made progress on the deficit. Among independents, 73% say the country has not made progress on the deficit, 23% say it has.

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### Wide Partisan Gap in Perceptions of Progress on Deficit

*Over the past year, has country made progress in reducing the budget deficit?*

|              | <b>Yes</b><br>% | <b>No</b><br>% | <b>DK</b><br>% |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total        | 29              | 66             | 5=100          |
| Republican   | 12              | 87             | 2=100          |
| Conservative | 7               | 91             | 2=100          |
| Democrat     | 50              | 43             | 7=100          |
| Liberal      | 60              | 31             | 9=100          |
| Independent  | 23              | 73             | 4=100          |

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Tea Party Republicans Split on Best Way to Reduce Deficit

In general, the public continues to say that the best way to reduce the budget deficit is through a combination of tax increases and cuts in major programs. About six-in-ten (63%) favor a mix of tax increases and spending cuts; only 20% say the focus should be mostly on programs cuts, even fewer (7%) say it should be mostly on tax increases. The balance of opinion on this question has changed only modestly over the last several years, with majorities consistently expressing support for a mix of program cuts and tax increases to reduce the deficit.

Majorities of Democrats (71%), independents (63%) and Republicans (56%) favor addressing the deficit through a combination of both tax increases and programs cuts. However, Republicans (32%) are far more likely than Democrats (10%) to see cuts in programs alone as the best way to reduce the deficit.

Among Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party, as many say the focus of deficit reduction efforts should be mostly on programs cuts (48%) as on a combination of both cuts and tax increases (44%). Non-Tea Party Republicans support a combination of program cuts and tax increases over mostly focusing on cuts to major programs by a 63%-26% margin.

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### Best Way to Reduce Deficit? Both Program Cuts and Tax Increases

*Best way to reduce deficit is to mostly ...*

|                                | <b>Cut<br/>major<br/>programs</b> | <b>Increase<br/>taxes</b> | <b>Combination<br/>of both</b> | <b>Other/<br/>DK</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
|                                | %                                 | %                         | %                              | %                    |
| Total                          | 20                                | 7                         | 63                             | 10=100               |
| Republican                     | 32                                | 3                         | 56                             | 9=100                |
| Democrat                       | 10                                | 10                        | 71                             | 10=100               |
| Independent                    | 21                                | 6                         | 63                             | 9=100                |
| <i>Among Rep/<br/>Rep lean</i> |                                   |                           |                                |                      |
| Tea Party                      | 48                                | 2                         | 44                             | 6=100                |
| Not Tea Party                  | 26                                | 3                         | 63                             | 9=100                |

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## About the Survey

The analysis for this report is based on telephone interviews conducted December 3-8, 2013 among a national sample of 2,001 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,000 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 523 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 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 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 and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), 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:

| <b>Group</b> | <b>Unweighted sample size</b> | <b>Plus or minus...</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total sample | 2,001                         | 2.6 percentage points   |
| Form 1       | 977                           | 3.6 percentage points   |
| Form 2       | 1024                          | 3.6 percentage points   |
| Republican   | 539                           | 4.9 percentage points   |
| Form 1       | 276                           | 6.9 percentage points   |
| Form 2       | 263                           | 7.0 percentage points   |
| Democrat     | 655                           | 4.5 percentage points   |
| Form 1       | 314                           | 6.4 percentage points   |
| Form 2       | 341                           | 6.2 percentage points   |
| Independent  | 711                           | 4.3 percentage points   |
| Form 1       | 336                           | 6.2 percentage points   |
| Form 2       | 375                           | 5.9 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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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS  
DECEMBER 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
December 3-8, 2013  
N=2,001**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 6-7, 12-14, 16-22 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 3-5, 8-11, 15, 23-29****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=977]:**

On a different subject,

Q.30F1 Over the past year, do you think the country has made progress reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

Dec 3-8

2013

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 29 | Country has made progress reducing federal budget deficit             |
| 66 | No, country has not made progress reducing the federal budget deficit |
| 5  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>                                      |

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=977]:**

Q.31F1 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?

| Dec 3-8     |  | Dec 5-9     | Sep 12-16   | Nov 9-14    | Jul 20-24   | Apr 7-10    | Dec 1-5     |
|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2013</u> |  | <u>2012</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2010</u> |
| 20          | Cutting major programs   | 11          | 16          | 17          | 19          | 20          | 16          |
| 7           | Increasing taxes   | 7           | 6           | 8           | 8           | 6           | 4           |
| 63          | Combination of both  | 74          | 69          | 62          | 60          | 64          | 65          |
| 1           | Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit <b>(VOL.)</b> | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | *           | 1           |
| 9           | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>                               | 6           | 8           | 11          | 12          | 9           | 13          |

**NO QUESTION 32****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**Q.33F2 If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?

| Dec 3-8     |                                      | Dec 5-9     | Jun 7-17    | Sep 22-Oct 4 | Aug 17-21   | Jun 15-19   | Feb 2-7     |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2013</u> |                                      | <u>2012</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u>  | <u>2011</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2011</u> |
| 44          | Spending to help the economy recover | 45          | 48          | 47           | 47          | 42          | 46          |
| 49          | Reducing the budget deficit          | 49          | 47          | 48           | 46          | 52          | 49          |
| 7           | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>     | 7           | 5           | 5            | 7           | 6           | 5           |

**TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**

*If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?*

|   | Nov 4-7     | Jul 15-18   | Feb 3-9     | Jul 22-26               | Jun 18-21   |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|   | <u>2010</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009<sup>1</sup></u> | <u>2009</u> |
| Spending more to help the economy recover | 43          | 51          | 47          | 53                      | 48          |
| Reducing the budget deficit               | 50          | 40          | 47          | 38                      | 46          |
| Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>          | 7           | 9           | 6           | 9                       | 6           |

<sup>1</sup> Jul 22-26, 2009 question was asked as part of a list that included items on: spending on education, spending on health care and spending to develop energy technology.

**RANDOMIZE Q34F2/Q35F2/Q36F2****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**

Q.34F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping spending for programs that help the poor and needy at current levels?

Dec 3-8

2013

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 33 | Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit                                    |
| 59 | Keeping spending for programs that help the poor and needy at current levels |
| 4  | Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>   |
| 4  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>   |

**RANDOMIZE Q34F2/Q35F2/Q36F2****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**

Q.35F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping military spending at current levels?

Dec 3-8

2013

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 51 | Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit   |
| 40 | Keeping military spending at current levels |
| 4  | Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>                  |
| 5  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>            |

**RANDOMIZE Q34F2/Q35F2/Q36F2****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**

Q.36F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

Dec 3-8

2013

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 23 | Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit                 |
| 69 | Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are |
| 4  | Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>                                |
| 4  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>                          |

**TREND FOR COMPARISON (PREVIOUSLY ASKED AS A STANDALONE QUESTION)<sup>2</sup>:**

*What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?*

|                                       | Taking steps to reduce<br>the budget deficit | Keeping Social Security and<br>Medicare benefits as they are | (VOL.)<br>Both<br>equally | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| Mar 13-17, 2013                       | 32   | 57   | 8                         | 3                |
| Nov 28-Dec 5, 2012 (SDT) <sup>3</sup> | 32   | 56   | 8                         | 5                |
| Aug 16-19, 2012                       | 33   | 51   | 11                        | 5                |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011                    | 35   | 58   | 2                         | 4                |
| Jun 15-19, 2011                       | 32   | 60   | 4                         | 5                |
| February, 1995                        | 24   | 70   | 2                         | 4                |

**NO QUESTIONS 37-44, 46, 49, 52-53, 60, 62-66, 72-79, 89-93, 96-97**

**QUESTIONS 45, 47-48, 50-51, 54-59, 61, 67-69, 80-88, 94-95 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**QUESTIONS 70-71, 98 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>2</sup> March 2013 and earlier trends not directly comparable to Q.36F2 because item was not previously asked in randomized block with other questions testing tradeoffs between deficit reduction and other areas of spending.

<sup>3</sup> Nov 28-Dec 5, 2012 question began, "Now thinking about some issues that have been in the news lately. In your opinion, what is more important" and rotated the two items.

**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?

|                      | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | (VOL.)<br>No<br>preference | (VOL.)<br>Other<br>party | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref | Lean<br>Rep | Lean<br>Dem |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dec 3-8, 2013        | 24                | 34              | 37                 | 3                          | *                        | 2                | 17          | 15          |
| Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013   | 24                | 32              | 38                 | 4                          | *                        | 2                | 16          | 14          |
| Oct 9-13, 2013       | 25                | 32              | 37                 | 3                          | 1                        | 3                | 16          | 18          |
| Sep 4-8, 2013        | 26                | 32              | 38                 | 3                          | 1                        | 1                | 17          | 15          |
| Jul 17-21, 2013      | 19                | 29              | 46                 | 3                          | *                        | 2                | 19          | 18          |
| Jun 12-16, 2013      | 23                | 33              | 39                 | 3                          | *                        | 2                | 17          | 15          |
| May 1-5, 2013        | 25                | 32              | 37                 | 2                          | 1                        | 3                | 14          | 16          |
| Mar 13-17, 2013      | 26                | 33              | 34                 | 3                          | 1                        | 3                | 14          | 15          |
| Feb 13-18, 2013      | 22                | 32              | 41                 | 2                          | *                        | 2                | 15          | 19          |
| Jan 9-13, 2013       | 25                | 32              | 38                 | 2                          | *                        | 2                | 15          | 16          |
| Dec 17-19, 2012      | 21                | 32              | 38                 | 4                          | *                        | 4                | 15          | 14          |
| Dec 5-9, 2012        | 23                | 33              | 38                 | 3                          | 1                        | 2                | 14          | 19          |
| <b>Yearly Totals</b> |                   |                 |                    |                            |                          |                  |             |             |
| 2012                 | 24.7              | 32.6            | 36.4               | 3.1                        | .5                       | 2.7              | 14.4        | 16.1        |
| 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        |
| 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                 | --                         | --                       | --               | --          | --          |

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=896]:**

|                            | Agree | Disagree | No opinion<br>either way | (VOL.)<br>Haven't<br>heard of | (VOL.)<br>Refused | Not<br>heard of/<br>DK |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 3-8, 2013              | 32    | 9        | 57                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013         | 40    | 9        | 48                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Oct 9-13, 2013             | 41    | 11       | 45                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Sep 4-8, 2013              | 35    | 9        | 54                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jul 17-21, 2013            | 37    | 10       | 50                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jun 12-16, 2013            | 44    | 9        | 46                       | 1                             | 2                 | --                     |
| May 23-26, 2013            | 41    | 7        | 48                       | 1                             | 3                 | --                     |
| May 1-5, 2013              | 28    | 8        | 61                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Mar 13-17, 2013            | 43    | 7        | 47                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Feb 13-18, 2013            | 36    | 9        | 52                       | 1                             | 3                 | --                     |
| Feb 14-17, 2013            | 43    | 9        | 45                       | 1                             | 2                 | --                     |
| Jan 9-13, 2013             | 35    | 10       | 51                       | 2                             | 2                 | --                     |
| Dec 5-9, 2012              | 37    | 11       | 51                       | 1                             | *                 | --                     |
| Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)   | 40    | 8        | 49                       | 1                             | 2                 | --                     |
| Oct 4-7, 2012              | 38    | 9        | 50                       | 1                             | 3                 | --                     |
| Sep 12-16, 2013            | 39    | 7        | 52                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012         | 40    | 9        | 47                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jun 7-17, 2012             | 42    | 8        | 48                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| May 9-Jun 3, 2012          | 36    | 9        | 53                       | 1                             | 2                 | --                     |
| Apr 4-15, 2012             | 42    | 8        | 48                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Mar 7-11, 2012             | 38    | 10       | 49                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Feb 8-12, 2012             | 40    | 7        | 51                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jan 11-16, 2012            | 42    | 8        | 47                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jan 4-8, 2012              | 37    | 8        | 52                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Dec 7-11, 2011             | 40    | 9        | 48                       | 2                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Nov 9-14, 2011             | 41    | 9        | 49                       | *                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011         | 37    | 11       | 51                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Aug 17-21, 2011            | 43    | 7        | 49                       | *                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jul 20-24, 2011            | 40    | 7        | 51                       | *                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jun 15-19, 2011            | 42    | 9        | 47                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| May 25-30, 2011            | 37    | 7        | 52                       | 1                             | 3                 | --                     |
| Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011         | 45    | 9        | 46                       | *                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Mar 8-14, 2011             | 37    | 7        | 54                       | 1                             | *                 | --                     |
| Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011         | 41    | 9        | 48                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>4</sup> | 43    | 8        | 47                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Jan 5-9, 2011              | 45    | 6        | 47                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Dec 1-5, 2010              | 48    | 5        | 45                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Nov 4-7, 2010              | 51    | 5        | 42                       | 1                             | 1                 | --                     |
| Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)      | 58    | 5        | 27                       | --                            | 1                 | 9                      |
| Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)      | 54    | 5        | 30                       | --                            | 1                 | 10                     |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)   | 56    | 6        | 29                       | --                            | *                 | 9                      |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010         | 46    | 5        | 36                       | --                            | 1                 | 13                     |
| Jun 16-20, 2010            | 46    | 5        | 30                       | --                            | *                 | 19                     |
| May 20-23, 2010            | 53    | 4        | 25                       | --                            | 1                 | 16                     |
| Mar 11-21, 2010            | 48    | 4        | 26                       | --                            | 1                 | 21                     |

<sup>4</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

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**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(SDT)

Pew Research Social and Demographic Trends

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