

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
EARLY OCTOBER 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
TOPLINE
October 4-7, 2012
N=1,511

NO QUESTIONS 1-4, 6, 9-14, 16-19, 23-25, 29-33, 36-38, 41, 44-51, 53-55

QUESTIONS 5, 7-8, 15a-d, 20-22, 26-28, 34, 64-69 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS 39-40, 42-43, 52, 56-63 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.35 Thinking about ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt, please tell me if you would approve or disapprove of each of the following. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt?]**¹

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=762]:				
a.F1	Reduce federal funding for programs that help lower income Americans			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	43	50	6
	Sep 22-25, 2011	41	55	4
	May 25-30, 2011	40	54	6
b.F1	Gradually raise the age at which people can begin receiving Social Security benefits			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	41	56	3
	May 25-30, 2011	36	59	5
	Dec 1-5, 2010	38	58	4
c.F1	Reduce federal funding for education			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	22	75	3
d.F1	Limit tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	47	44	9
	May 25-30, 2011	49	43	8
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	<i>Eliminate tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages</i>			
	Dec 1-5, 2010	34	56	10
NO ITEM e				
f.F1	Raise the tax rate on investment income			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	44	49	7
g.F1	Reduce Medicare benefits for seniors with higher incomes			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	49	47	4
ASK ALL:				
h.	Reduce military defense spending			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	40	56	4

¹ In September 2011, question began "As you may know, political leaders are debating various ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt." In December 2010, question began, "Thinking about ways to reduce the federal budget deficit..." In September 2011, respondents were asked whether they strongly approve/disapprove.

Q.35 CONTINUED...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=749]:				
i.F2	Raise the amount people on Medicare contribute to cover their health care costs			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	35	57	8
	Dec 1-5, 2010	32	64	5
j.F2	Reduce federal funding for college student loan programs			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	34	61	4
k.F2	Limit tax deductions for large corporations			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	58	34	8
	Sep 22-25, 2011	56	39	5
	May 25-30, 2011	62	34	4

NO ITEM I

m.F2	Raise the income tax rate on incomes over \$250,000 a year			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	64	29	6
	Sep 22-25, 2011	67	29	4
	May 25-30, 2011	66	31	3
n.F2	Reduce federal funding for scientific research			
	Oct 4-7, 2012	38	54	8

ASK ALL:

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

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

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

BASED ON LIKELY VOTERS [N=1,112]:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Oct 4-7, 2012	36	31	30	1	1	1	14	14
Sep 12-16, 2012	29	39	30	1	*	2	14	13

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,201]:

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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Yearly Totals								
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
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	--	--	--	--	--