



# REASON-RUPE

## Public Opinion Survey

### WINTER 2011 TOPLINE RESULTS

How would you rate the job performance of President Barack Obama?  
Would you say you approve or disapprove of his performance?

Strongly Approve	24%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	5%
Total	100%
<i>Net Approve</i>	49%
<i>Net Disapprove</i>	47%

How would you rate the job performance of Congress? Would you say you  
approve or disapprove of Congress's job performance?

Strongly Approve	3%
Somewhat Approve	10%
Somewhat Disapprove	23%
Strongly Disapprove	57%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%
<i>Net Approve</i>	13%
<i>Net Disapprove</i>	80%

*Nationwide telephone poll conducted December 1st-13th of both mobile and landline phones, 1200 adults, margin of error +/- 3%. Columns may not add up to 100% due to rounding error.*

How do you typically travel to work? Do you...

Drive Alone	51%
Carpool	4%
Bus	3%
Subway, Light Rail, Trolley, etc.	2%
Bike	<1 %
Walk	<1 %
Telecommute	4%
Do Not Work	32%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	1%
Total	100%

How many minutes does it usually take you to commute from home to work? (OPEN-ENDED)

1-10	25%
11-20	29%
21-30	18%
31-180	23%
Depends	3%
Don't Know	1%
Total (Of Commuters)	100%

About how many miles is your commute from home to work? {OPEN}

0-5	28%
6-10	19%
11-22	24%
23-150	22%
Varies	3%
Don't Know	4%
Total (Of Commuters)	100%

How often do you use public transportation, such as buses, trains, and/or subways? Would you say...

Every Day	6%
A Few Times a Week	6%
A Few Times a Month	7%
A Few Times a Year	18%
Never	63%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	<1 %
Total	100%

How often do you get stuck in traffic jams? Would you say...

Every Day	14%
A Few Times a Week	17%
A Few Times a Month	17%
A Few Times a Year	21%
Never	30%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	1%
Total	100%

Compared to five years ago, would you say traffic congestion has gotten worse, gotten better or stayed about the same?

Worse	49%
Better	8%
Stayed the Same	38%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	4%
Total	100%

Looking ahead, in the next five years do you think traffic congestion will get worse, better or stay about the same?

Worse	54%
Better	12%
Stay the Same	28%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	6%
Total	100%

Would you say the overall quality and condition of your area's transportation system is excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	6%
Good	35%
Fair	35%
Poor	16%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	9%
Total	100%

The federal gas tax is currently 18.4 cents a gallon, and nearly all the revenue is used to pay for highways and transit. Some say our roads and transit systems are crumbling and need more funding. Others say the government wastes a lot of the gas tax money it already receives. Do you favor or oppose raising the federal gas tax?

Strongly Favor	8%
Somewhat Favor	11%
Somewhat Oppose	21%
Strongly Oppose	56%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	4%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	<i>19%</i>
<i>Net Oppose</i>	<i>77%</i>

If 10 percent of all commuters in your area use transit systems, would you say the transit system should receive:

10% of Transportation Funding	33%
More than 10% of Transportation Funding	33%
Less than 10% of Transportation Funding	15%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	18%
Total	100%

Which statement do you agree with more: We can't end our traffic congestion problems by expanding current roads and building new ones. Instead we need better mass transit systems, so more funding should go to transit - even if that means roads and highways don't get the money they need for repairs or expansion; or, Most people, businesses and our economy rely on roads and highways. So roads and highways should get the level of funding they need - even if that means we are unable to offer more mass transit options.

Prioritize funding for public transit	30%
Prioritize funding for roads and highways	62%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	8%
Total	100%

If your region expanded its highway system, would you prefer to pay for the new lanes or new highways by raising taxes or by paying tolls when you drive on them?

Tax Increases	28%
Tolls	58%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	13%
Total	100%

In some areas, drivers pay tolls to drive on certain roads. Is there a toll road in your area?

Yes	41%
No	58%
Don't Know	1%
Total	100%

If your area built a new toll lane or road and using it would save you a significant amount of time, would you pay a toll to use it?

Yes	59%
Maybe	13%
No	27%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	1%
Total	100%

On average, about how much would you be willing to pay per trip to use this toll lane? (OPEN-ENDED)

None	27%
\$0.05-0.75	17%
\$0.76-1.00	15%
\$1.01- 2.00	16%
\$2.01-25.00	12%
Depends	4%
Don't Know	8%
Total	100%

Many governments are partnering with private companies to build and expand highways, airports and other infrastructure projects that government might not be able to afford otherwise. Do you favor or oppose these public-private partnerships?

Strongly Favor	22%
Somewhat Favor	33%
Somewhat Oppose	15%
Strongly Oppose	20%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	10%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Net Oppose</i>	<i>35%</i>

To reduce traffic congestion, some regions are allowing individual drivers to pay a toll to use HOV lanes that have previously been reserved for cars with 2 or more people in them. Some say this offers everyone a faster trip and brings in needed revenue. Others say it is unfair to low-income drivers. Do you support or oppose allowing individual drivers use HOV lanes if they pay a toll?

Strongly Support	34%
Somewhat Support	23%
Somewhat Oppose	12%
Strongly Oppose	23%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	9%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Net Oppose</i>	<i>35%</i>

Another plan being used to reduce congestion during rush hours is charging adjustable tolls on new toll roads. The tolls are higher at times when traffic is heavy and lower when traffic is light. Is that something you support or oppose? Is that strongly or somewhat?

Strongly Support	20%
Somewhat Support	19%
Somewhat Oppose	15%
Strongly Oppose	35%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	10%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favor</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>Net Oppose</i>	<i>50%</i>

Which statement do you agree with more? Federal and state governments should spend taxpayer money to build and operate high-speed rail systems where they think they are needed; or, Private companies should build and operate high-speed rail systems where they think riders will pay to use them.

Government build high-speed rail	34%
Private companies build high-speed rail	55%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	11%
Total	100%

Do you think the government generally spends transportation funding ineffectively or effectively?

Ineffectively	65%
Effectively	23%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	13%
Total	100%

Should talking on your cell phone while driving be illegal?

Yes	69%
No	29%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	3%
Total	100%

Should texting on your cell phone while driving be illegal?

Yes	89%
No	10%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	1%
Total	100%

Some have proposed abolishing or consolidating certain federal agencies and departments to reduce the deficit. I'm going to read you a list of federal agencies and departments. Please let me know if you would favor abolishing and consolidating its functions, or prefer to keep it as is. The first one is, the Department of...

The Department of Energy

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	41%
Keep It As Is	50%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	9%
Total	100%

The Department of Transportation

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	34%
Keep It As Is	59%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%

The Department of Housing and Urban Development

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	45%
Keep It As Is	46%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	9%
Total	100%

The Department of Commerce

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	37%
Keep It As Is	48%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	15%
Total	100%

The Department of Interior

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	38%
Keep It As Is	41%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	21%
Total	100%

The Department of Education

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	34%
Keep It As Is	61%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	5%
Total	100%

The Department of Homeland Security

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	34%
Keep It As Is	60%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	5%
Total	100%



## The Environmental Protection Agency

Favor Abolishing/ Consolidating	40%
Keep It As Is	54%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	6%
Total	100%

For each of the following entities, please tell me if your impression is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to give your feelings, just say so.

## The grocery store where you shop

Very Favorable	50%
Mostly Favorable	38%
Mostly Unfavorable	5%
Very Unfavorable	3%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	4%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>88%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>8%</i>

## Your Bank

Very Favorable	41%
Mostly Favorable	35%
Mostly Unfavorable	9%
Very Unfavorable	8%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>76%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>17%</i>

## The Company That Makes Your Cell Phone

Very Favorable	36%
Mostly Favorable	37%
Mostly Unfavorable	8%
Very Unfavorable	6%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	13%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>73%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>14%</i>

Your Internet Service Provider

Very Favorable	27%
Mostly Favorable	42%
Mostly Unfavorable	9%
Very Unfavorable	8%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	14%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>69%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>17%</i>

Your Local School System

Very Favorable	25%
Mostly Favorable	33%
Mostly Unfavorable	17%
Very Unfavorable	16%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	10%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>33%</i>

Your Local Government

Very Favorable	16%
Mostly Favorable	42%
Mostly Unfavorable	18%
Very Unfavorable	16%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>34%</i>

Your State Government

Very Favorable	13%
Mostly Favorable	37%
Mostly Unfavorable	23%
Very Unfavorable	20%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	6%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>43%</i>

## The Federal Government

Very Favorable	9%
Mostly Favorable	23%
Mostly Unfavorable	30%
Very Unfavorable	32%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	6%
Total	100%
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>32%</i>
<i>Net Unfavorable</i>	<i>62%</i>

In terms of the government's handling of the nation's current economic problems, what worries you more; that the federal government will take action that makes things worse, or the federal government will fail to take action?

Government Take Action to Make Things Worse	54%
Government Will Fail to Take Action	40%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%

When somebody loses their job, for how many months should they receive unemployment benefits? (OPEN-ENDED)

0-6 Months	31%
7-12 Months	29%
13-24 Months	11%
25+ Months	15%
Depends	8%
Don't Know	7%
Total	100%

Some people think most of those who have been unemployed for over a year are trying hard to find jobs but can't, others think most of those who have been unemployed for over a year could find jobs if they wanted to. Which comes closer to your own view?

Trying Hard but Can't Find Job	48%
Could Find Jobs If They Wanted to	44%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%

As you may know, the 2012 presidential election is less than a year away and President Barack Obama is running for re-election. Would you say you will definitely vote for him, you will consider voting for him, or you definitely will not vote for him?

Definitely Vote	29%
Consider Voting	23%
Definitely Not Vote	44%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	4%
Total	100%

If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor? (*Asked of self-identified Republicans*)

Newt Gingrich	27%
Mitt Romney	25%
Ron Paul	7%
Michele Bachmann	6%
Rick Perry	5%
Rick Santorum	4%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Gary Johnson	1%
Undecided/ Don't Know	22%
Total (of Republicans)	100%

Of this list of Republican presidential candidates, who would be your last choice to become president? (*Asked of all respondents*)

Michele Bachmann	17%
Newt Gingrich	12%
Ron Paul	9%
Rick Perry	9%
Mitt Romney	8%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Rick Santorum	2%
Gary Johnson	2%
Don't Know	36%
Total	100%

If former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson ran as an independent or third-party candidate in the 2012 presidential election, would you consider voting for him?

Yes	7%
Maybe	14%
No	50%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	29%
Total (Of All Americans)	100%

If former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin ran as an independent or third-party candidate in the 2012 presidential election, would you consider voting for her?

Yes	15%
Maybe	12%
No	67%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	6%
Total (Of All Americans)	100%

If Congressman Ron Paul ran as an independent or third-party candidate in the 2012 presidential election, would you consider voting for him?

Yes	17%
Maybe	17%
No	52%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	14%
Total (Of All Americans)	100%

If New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg ran as an independent or third-party candidate in the 2012 presidential election, would you consider voting for him?

Yes	14%
Maybe	17%
No	53%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	15%
Total (Of All Americans)	100%

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Yes	88%
No	9%
Refused to Respond	3%
Total	100%

In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?  
(DERIVED)

Democrat	33%
Democrat-Leaner	12%
Pure Independent	16%
Republican Leaner	10%
Republican	25%
Don't Know	4%
Total	100%

In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?  
(DERIVED, includes leaners)

Democrat	45%
Pure Independent	16%
Republican	35%
Don't Know	4%
Total	100%

American Political Landscape  
(DERIVED)

Democrat	22%
Occupy Wall Street Supporter	26%
Pure Independent	6%
Both Occupy Wall Street and Tea Party Supporter	7%
Tea Party Supporter	23%
Republican	12%
Don't Know	3%
Total	100%

American Ideological Landscape, Based on Role of Government Questions  
(DERIVED)

Communitarian	23%
Libertarian	17%
Conservative	24%
Liberal	23%
Don't Know	13%
Total	100%

Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party movement or not?  
{IF SUPPORTER}: Would you say you're a strong or weak supporter?

Strong Tea Party Supporter	11%
Weak Tea Party Supporter	19%
Not a Tea Party Supporter	59%
Not Sure	10%
Total	100%
<i>Net Supporter</i>	30%
<i>Net Non-Supporter</i>	69%

Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Occupy Wall Street movement or not? {IF SUPPORTER}: Would you say you're a strong or weak supporter?

Strong Occupy Wall Street Supporter	16%
Weak Occupy Wall Street Supporter	17%
Not an Occupy Wall Street Party Supporter	57%
Not Sure	10%
Total	100%
<i>Net Supporter</i>	33%
<i>Net Non-Supporter</i>	67%

Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as...conservative, moderate, liberal, libertarian, progressive, or something else?

Conservative	29%
Moderate	28%
Liberal	17%
Libertarian	5%
Progressive	10%
Don't Know/Other	10%
Total	100%

#### Role of Government Questions

Some people say the less government the better, others say that there are more things that government should be doing. Which comes closer to your own view?

Less Government the Better	45%
More Things Government Should Be Doing	48%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%

Some people say we need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems, others say that people would be better able to handle today's problems within a free market with less government involvement. Which comes closer to your own view?

Strong Government to Handle Complex Economic Problems	46%
Better Able to Handle within Free Market	47%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	7%
Total	100%

Some people think the government should promote traditional values in our society. Others think the government should not favor any particular set of values. Which comes closer to your own view?

Government Should Promote Traditional Values	51%
Government Should Not Promote Particular Set of Values	41%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	8%
Total	100%

Some people think the government should have a role in promoting virtue in society. Others think it should not be the role of government to promote virtue in society. Which comes closer to your own view?

Government Have Role in Promoting Virtue in Society	35%
Government Not Have Role in Promoting Virtue in Society	54%
Don't Know/ No Opinion	12%
Total	100%

### ***Demographics***

#### **GENDER**

Male	48%
Female	52%
Total	100%

#### **AGE GROUP**

18 to 29	22%
30 to 44	26%
45 to 54	19%
55 to 64	16%
65 or Older	17%
Total	100%



## ETHNICITY/RACE

White	65%
Black	13%
Hispanic	16%
Asian	5%
Native American	1%
Other	1%
Total	100%

## ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Less than \$25,000	16%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	22%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12%
\$100,000 to \$199,999	13%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	2%
\$300,000 or More	2%
Don't Know/ Refused	14%
Total	100%

## EDUCATION

Less than High School Graduate	4%
High School Graduate	21%
Some College/ Trade/ Vocational School	29%
College Graduate	27%
Post Graduate	14%
Refused to Respond	4%
Total	100%

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employed Full Time PRIVATE	31%
Employed Full Time PUBLIC	8%
Employed Part Time PRIVATE	9%
Employed Part Time PUBLIC	3%
Self-Employed	10%
Homemaker	5%
Retired	16%
Student	3%
Unemployed	10%
Refused	4%
Total	100%

Workforce: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYEES

Public Sector	16%
Private Sector	84%
Total (Of Workforce)	100%

PHONE ACCESS

Landline Only	6%
Cell Phone Only	15%
Both	76%
Refused to Respond	4%
Total	100%

REGION

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	36%
West	23%
Total	100%

PHONE TYPE

Landline	68%
Cell Phone	32%
Total	100%

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Q4 WINTER 2011 POLL**

The Reason-Rupe Q4 2011 poll collected a nationally representative sample of 1200 respondents, aged 18 and older from all 50 states and the District of Columbia using live telephone interviews from December 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2011. The margin of sampling error for this poll is  $\pm 3$  percent. Questions on the GOP presidential primary were collected from December 3<sup>rd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, have a sample size of 1029, and a  $\pm 5$  percent margin of error. Interviews were conducted with respondents using both landline (777) and mobile phones (423). Landline respondents were randomly selected within households based on the adult who had the most recent birthday. The sample was weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, party identification, public and private sector employees, and Census region, based on the most recent US Census data. The sampling frame included landline and mobile phone numbers generated using Random Digit Dialing (RDD) methods and randomly selected numbers from a directory-listed sample. Click [here](#) for full methodological details. NSON Opinion Strategy conducted the poll's fieldwork.

View [full methodology](#)