



REASON-RUPE

Public Opinion Survey

WINTER 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE

Hello. This is _____ calling from NSON Opinion Strategy. We're talking with people in your area today about some issues facing the country. We are not trying to sell anything, your answers are completely confidential, and we would really appreciate your cooperation.

1. How would you rate the job performance of President Barack Obama? Would you say you approve or disapprove of his performance? {ROTATE approve/disapprove} Do you strongly {approve/disapprove} or somewhat?

- Strongly Approve
- Approve Somewhat
- Disapprove Somewhat
- Strongly Disapprove

2. How would you rate the job performance of Congress? Would you say you approve or disapprove of Congress's job performance? {ROTATE approve/disapprove} Do you strongly {approve/disapprove} or somewhat?

- Strongly Approve
- Approve Somewhat
- Disapprove Somewhat
- Strongly Disapprove

Transportation

I'd like to ask you a few questions about transportation.

3. How do you typically travel to work? Do you... *(Note: Which do you use the most)* {ROTATE answer choices}

- Drive alone
- Carpool
- Bus
- Subway/Light Rail (Trolley)
- Commuter rail
- Bike
- Walk
- Telecommute
- Don't travel to work

4. {ANYTHING OTHER THAN TELECOMMUTE/DON'T TRAVEL TO WORK on 3} How many minutes does it usually take you to commute from home to work? {OPEN}

5. {ANYTHING OTHER THAN TELECOMMUTE/DON'T TRAVEL TO WORK on 3} About how many miles is your commute from home to work? {OPEN}

6. How often do you use public transportation, such as buses, trains, and/or subways? Would you say... *(Note: if once a week, then code as a few times a week; if once a month code as a few times a month; if once a year, then code as a few times a year).*

- every day
- a few times a week
- a few times a month
- a few times a year
- never

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

- every day
- a few times a week
- a few times a month
- a few times a year
- never

8. Compared to five years ago, would you say traffic congestion has gotten worse, gotten better or stayed about the same? {ROTATE worse/better}

- Worse
- Better
- Stayed the Same

9. Looking ahead, in the next five years do you think traffic congestion will get worse, better or stay about the same? {ROTATE worse/better}

- Worse
- Better
- Stay the Same

10. Would you say the overall quality and condition of your area's transportation system is excellent, good, fair, or poor? {ROTATE 1-4, 4-1}

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

11. 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? {ROTATE ""}

- Strongly Support
- Somewhat Support
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

14. If 10 percent of all commuters in your area use transit systems, would you say the transit system should receive: (ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)

- 10 percent of transportation funding
- More than 10 percent of transportation funding
- Less than 10 percent of transportation funding

15. Which statement do you agree with more {ROTATE}:

- "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."
- *(Note to interviewer: Mass transit includes trains, buses, etc).*

16. 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"? *(Note: If necessary, prompt them to choose)* {ROTATE ""}

- Tax Increases
- Tolls

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

- Yes
- No

18. 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
- No
- Maybe

18a. {ASK OF Yes/Maybe} On average, about how much would you be willing to pay per trip to use this toll lane? {OPEN} (Note: Dollars and or cents)

19. 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? {ROTATE favor/oppose}

- Strongly Favor
- Somewhat Favor
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

20. 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? Is that strongly or somewhat? (Note: HOV lanes are high-occupancy vehicle lanes, carpool lanes) {ROTATE ""}

- Strongly Support
- Somewhat Support
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

21. 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? {ROTATE support/oppose}

- Strongly Favor
- Somewhat Favor
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

23. Which statement do you agree with more? {ROTATE}

- “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.”

24. Do you think the government generally spends transportation funding ineffectively or effectively? {ROTATE ineffectively/effectively}

- Ineffectively
- Effectively

25. Should talking on your cell phone while driving be illegal?

- Yes
- No

26. Should texting on your cell phone while driving be illegal?

- Yes
- No

Economy

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about the economy and government.

27. In fiscal 2011, the US government spent \$1.3 trillion more than it collected in revenue. This is called the federal budget deficit. In just a few words, what would you say is the main cause of the federal budget deficit? {OPEN}

28. Can you think of any examples where the government has created too many rules? {OPEN}

29. 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: {ROTATE 29a-29h}

- 29a. Energy
- 29b. Transportation
- 29c. Housing and Urban Development
- 29d. Commerce
- 29e. Interior
- 29f. Education
- 29g. Homeland Security
- 29h. Environmental Protection Agency

- Favor Abolishing/Consolidating
- Keep It As Is

30. 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. {ROTATE Very Favorable, Mostly Favorable, Mostly Unfavorable, Very Unfavorable AND Very Unfavorable, Mostly Unfavorable, Mostly Favorable, Very Favorable} {ROTATE 30a-30h}

- 30a. The grocery store where you shop
- 30b. Your bank
- 30c. The company that makes your cell phone
- 30d. Your Internet service provider
- 30e. Your local school system
- 30f. Your local government
- 30g. Your state government
- 30h. The federal government

- Very Favorable
- Mostly Favorable
- Mostly Unfavorable
- Very Unfavorable

31. 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?" {ROTATE ""}

- Government make things worse
- Government will fail to take action

36. When somebody loses their job, for how many months should they receive unemployment benefits? {OPEN}

37. 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? {ROTATE ""}

Election Questions

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about the upcoming presidential election.

38. 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? {ROTATE 1-3, then 3-1}

- Definitely vote for him
- Consider voting for him
- Definitely not vote for him

39. **{ASK OF ALL RESPONDENTS}** If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor? (**ROTATE** answer choices) **{Stopped asking about Herman Cain on 12/3/11; analyses on these questions were conducted on constrained sample from 12/3-12/13}**

- Mitt Romney
- Ron Paul
- Michele Bachmann
- Herman Cain
- Newt Gingrich
- Jon Huntsman
- Rick Santorum
- Gary Johnson
- Rick Perry

40. **{ASK OF ALL RESPONDENTS}** Of this list of Republican presidential candidates, who would be your *last* choice to become president? **{Stopped asking about Herman Cain on 12/3/11; analyses on these questions were conducted on constrained sample from 12/3-12/13}**

- Mitt Romney
- Ron Paul
- Michele Bachmann
- Herman Cain
- Newt Gingrich
- Jon Huntsman
- Rick Santorum
- Gary Johnson
- Rick Perry

42. 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
- No

43. 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
- No

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

- Yes
- No

45. 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
- No

46. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what? (ROTATE REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRAT, INDEPENDENT)

- Democratic
- Republican
- Independent/no party
- Some other party (SPECIFY) {OPEN}

46a. {If INDEPENDENT} Do you think of yourself as CLOSER to the Republican Party, Democratic Party, or some other party? {If SOME OTHER PARTY} Which party? {ROTATE Republican Party/Democratic Party}

1. Closer to Republican Party
2. Closer to Democratic Party
3. Some other party
4. Neither (Totally Independent)

47. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as...conservative, moderate, liberal, libertarian, progressive, or something else? {ROTATE everything but "something else"}

- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Libertarian
- Progressive
- Something Else

48. 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 Supporter
- Weak Supporter
- Not a Supporter

48a. {If NOT A SUPPORTER} In the past did you ever consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

- Yes
- No

49. 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?

- Supporter
- Not a Supporter

Values & Libertarian Question Battery

I am going to read you two statements. After I read both statements, please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion. You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your own views:

54. Some people say “the less government the better,” others say that “there are more things that government should be doing.” {ROTATE ""}

- The less government, the better
- There are more things that government should be doing

55. 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”. {ROTATE ""}

- We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems
- People would be better able to handle today’s problems within a free market with less government involvement

56. 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? {ROTATE ""}

- Government should promote traditional values
- Government should not promote any particular set of values

57. 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? {ROTATE ""}

- Government should have a role in promoting virtue in society
- Government should not have a role in promoting virtue in society

Demographics

Now, I am going to ask you some questions for demographic purposes only. These questions are completely anonymous and help us determine how people in different education levels, income levels, and more think about important matters. First...

58. Gender (*BY OBSERVATION*)

- Male
- Female

59. To make sure that we have a representative sample of people in the United States, which of the following categories best describes your age?

- 18 to 29
- 30 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 or Older

60. Which of the following racial or ethnic groups best describes you?

- Caucasian/White
- African-American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian
- Native American
- Something Else

61. What is your household income category? Please stop me when I reach your category.

- Less than \$25,000 per year
- More than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000
- More than \$50,000 but less than \$75,000
- More than \$75,000 but less than \$100,000
- More than \$100,000 but less than \$200,000
- More than \$200,000 but less than \$300,000
- More than \$300,000

62. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than High School Graduate
- High School Graduate (*GED*)
- Some College/Trade School (*Associates, No 4-Year Degree, Technical*)
- College Graduate (*Bachelor's*)
- Post Graduate (*Study/Degree*)

63. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- Employed Full-Time
- Employed Part-Time
- Small Business Owner (*Self-Employed*)
- Taking Care of Home and Family (*Homemaker*)
- Retired
- Student
- Unemployed

{If FULL OR PART TIME} 63a. Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government?

- Yes
- No

{If RETIRED} 63b. Before retiring, did you primarily work as a public sector or private sector employee?

- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- (Both *if they volunteer*) (*DO NOT READ ALOUD*)
- Did not work outside the home

64. Are you registered to vote?

- Yes
- No

67. What is your zip code? {OPEN}

68. Does your household use only a landline, only a cell phone, or do you have both?

- Landline Only
- Cell Phone Only
- Both

This is the conclusion of our survey. We thank you for your participation