



# REASON-RUPE

## Public Opinion Survey

Reason-Rupe Public Opinion Research Project  
March 2012 Questionnaire  
Fielded March 10-20 2012

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1. Gender (*BY OBSERVATION*)
  - Male
  - Female
  
2. 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
  
3. And again, for statistical purposes only, which of the following racial or ethnic groups best describes you?
  - White
  - African-American
  - Hispanic or Latino
  - Asian
  - Native American
  - Something Else

### Presidential and Congressional Approval

4. How would you rate the job performance of President Obama? Would you say you approve or disapprove of his performance? ([ROTATE APPROVE/DISAPPROVE](#)) Do you strongly ([approve/disapprove](#)) or somewhat?
  - Strongly Approve
  - Somewhat Approve

- Somewhat Disapprove
  - Strongly Disapprove
5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the economy? (ROTATE APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat?
- Strongly Approve
  - Somewhat Approve
  - Somewhat Disapprove
  - Strongly Disapprove
6. 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
  - Somewhat Approve
  - Somewhat Disapprove
  - Strongly Disapprove

## Election

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Now I have a few questions about the upcoming presidential election...

7. As you know, President Obama is running for re-election. Will you definitely vote for him, consider voting for him, or definitely not vote for him? (ROTATE)
- Definitely vote for him
  - Consider voting for him
  - Definitely not vote for him
8. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for President Obama if Hillary Clinton were running as his vice president, or would it make no significant difference? {ROTATE MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY}
- More Likely
  - Less Likely
  - No difference
9. If you were voting today in the Republican presidential primary, whom would you vote for Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, or Newt Gingrich? (ROTATE)
- Ron Paul
  - Mitt Romney

- Rick Santorum
- Newt Gingrich
- Vote for someone else (*not read aloud*)
- Would not vote (*not read aloud*)

10. And, if the presidential election was held today and Barack Obama was the Democratic candidate and Mitt Romney was the Republican candidate, for whom would you vote? {ROTATE}

- Barack Obama
- Mitt Romney
- Vote for someone else (*not read aloud*)
- Would not vote (*not read aloud*)

11. And, if the presidential election was held today and Barack Obama was the Democratic candidate and Rick Santorum was the Republican candidate, for whom would you vote? {ROTATE}

- Barack Obama
- Rick Santorum
- Vote for someone else (*not read aloud*)
- Would not vote (*not read aloud*)

12. And, if the presidential election was held today and Barack Obama was the Democratic candidate and Ron Paul was the Republican candidate, for whom would you vote? {ROTATE}

- Barack Obama
- Ron Paul
- Vote for someone else (*not read aloud*)
- Would not vote (*not read aloud*)

13. And, if the presidential election was held today and Barack Obama was the Democratic candidate, Mitt Romney was the Republican candidate, and Ron Paul was an independent candidate, for whom would you vote? {ROTATE OBAMA-DEMOCRAT and ROMNEY-REPUBLICAN}

- Barack Obama
- Mitt Romney
- Ron Paul
- Vote for someone else (*not read aloud*)
- Would not vote (*not read aloud*)

14. And, if the presidential election was held today and Barack Obama was the Democratic candidate, Rick Santorum was the Republican candidate, and Ron Paul was an independent candidate, for whom would you vote? {ROTATE OBAMA-DEMOCRAT SANTORUM-REPUBLICAN}

- Barack Obama
- Rick Santorum
- Ron Paul
- Vote for someone else (*not read aloud*)
- Would not vote (*not read aloud*)

## Health Care

Now I'd to ask you a few questions about health care...

15. Overall, are you satisfied, neutral, or dissatisfied with your health care? Is that strongly or somewhat? {ROTATE SATISFIED/DISSATISFIED}

- Strongly Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Neutral
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Strongly Dissatisfied

16. In just a few words, how would you improve your health care? {OPEN}

17. Are you and your family covered by health insurance?

- Yes
- No

18. Is that insurance provided through an employer, a plan you purchased yourself, through Medicare, Medicaid, or something else? (*Note: insurance provided through spouse's or parent's employer should be coded as employer-provided*)

- Employer-provided
- Individually purchased
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Something else

19. Do you have a choice of health insurance providers?

- Yes

- No

20. Have you ever shopped around for a less expensive or better auto insurance policy?

- Yes
- No

22a. Would you like to have similar ability to shop around for a less expensive or better health insurance policy?

- Yes
- No
- Already do

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about government regulation in health care

21. Over the past decade, would you say the health care market has been very regulated, somewhat regulated, not very regulated, or not at all regulated by the government? {ROTATE 1-4 and 4-1}

- Very Regulated
- Somewhat Regulated
- Not Very Regulated
- Not At All Regulated

22. Would you say it has been regulated too much, not enough, or about the right amount? {ROTATE 1-3 and 3-1}

- Too Much
- About the right amount
- Not Enough

### ***Favorability of the ACA***

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about the new major health care law passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in March 2010. {Official name of the law is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act}

23. How much would you say you know about the new health care law? A great deal, a moderate amount, not much, or very little?

- Great Deal

- Moderate Amount
- Not Much
- Very little

24. {OPEN} In just a few words, what words come to mind when thinking about the new health care law?

25. Given what you know about the new health care law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? Is that strongly [favorable/unfavorable] or somewhat? {ROTATE FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE} (calibration-Kaiser).

- Strongly Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Somewhat Unfavorable
- Strongly Unfavorable

26. Do you think Congress should try to repeal the health care law, or should they let it stand? Do you feel this way strongly or somewhat? {ROTATE REPEAL HEALTH CARE LAW/LET IT STAND} (calibration-CBS/NYTimes)

- Repeal—feel strongly
- Repeal—feel somewhat
- Let it stand—feel somewhat
- Let it stand—feel strongly

27. Do you think Americans should or should not be required to have health insurance?

- Should
- Should Not

28. Do you think it is constitutional or unconstitutional for Congress to require Americans to have health insurance? {ROTATE CONSTITUTIONAL/UNCONSTITUTIONAL}

- Constitutional
- Unconstitutional

29. Do you think it would be constitutional or unconstitutional for Congress to require Americans to buy healthy foods, such as broccoli? {ROTATE CONSTITUTIONAL/ UNCONSTITUTIONAL}

- Constitutional

- Unconstitutional

### **Trade offs**

30. The new health care law has a provision that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history. Do you favor or oppose this provision?

{ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE}

- Favor
- Oppose

31. Suppose the effect of this pre-existing conditions provision were to increase taxes. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes in order for health insurance companies to not charge higher premiums based on medical history? *(Note: Provision that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history.)*

- Yes
- No

32. Suppose the effect of this pre-existing conditions provision were to increase wait times to see your doctor or specialist. Would you be willing to wait longer to see a doctor or specialist in order for health insurance companies to not charge higher premiums based on medical history? *(Note: Provision that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history.)*

- Yes
- No

33. Suppose the effect of this pre-existing conditions provision were to increase premiums. Would you be willing to pay higher premiums in order for health insurance companies to not charge higher premiums based on medical history? *(Note: Provision that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history.)*

- Yes
- No

34. Suppose the effect of this pre-existing conditions provision were to lower health care quality. Would you be willing to have lower quality health care in order for

health insurance companies to not charge higher premiums based on medical history? (Note: Provision that prohibits health insurance companies from charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions or medical history.)

- Yes
- No

### **Expected Impact of the ACA**

35. As you may know, the new health care law requires employers with more than 50 employees to provide employees with health insurance or else pay a fine.

- a. Do you approve or disapprove of this provision? {ROTATE APPROVE/DISAPPROVE}
  - Approve
  - Disapprove
- b. Do you think this will cause employers to hire more workers, lay off workers, or will it not significantly impact employers' hiring decisions? {ROTATE}
  - Hire more workers
  - Lay off workers
  - Not significantly impact hiring decisions
- c. Do you think this will cause employers to pay workers more, pay them less, or have no significant impact on workers' pay? {ROTATE}
  - Pay workers more
  - Pay workers less
  - No significant impact
- d. Do you think the federal government should or should not have the authority to require employers to provide health insurance to their employees?
  - Should have the authority
  - Should not have the authority

36. Do you expect the new health care law will increase, decrease, or have no significant impact on innovation in health care and medical research? {ROTATE INCREASE/DECREASE}

- Increase



- Decrease
- No significant impact

37. In your opinion, is it likely or unlikely that the new health care law will lead to government rationing of health care services, which means some forms of medical care would no longer be covered because they are too costly, not essential, or have too little chance of success. Would you say that's very (likely/unlikely) or somewhat? {ROTATE LIKELY/UNLIKELY}

- Very Likely
- Somewhat Likely
- Somewhat Unlikely
- Very Unlikely

38. Would you prefer to buy health insurance through your employer, or would you prefer to receive the equivalent amount in pay so you could shop for and purchase your own health insurance plan?

- Prefer to buy through employer
- Prefer receive equivalent in pay and purchase individually

39. If you were allowed buy health insurance from any health care provider in any state, do you think the price you pay for health insurance would...go up, stay the same, or go down? (ROTATE GO UP/GO DOWN, keep SAME in the middle)

- Go Up
- Stay the Same
- Go Down

40. For people under 55, would you favor or oppose changing Medicare into a program that gives them a credit that can be used to purchase a private health insurance plan of their choice when they are eligible? {ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE} Is that strongly or somewhat?

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

41. If Medicare were changed to provide Americans with a credit that allowed them to shop for their own insurance, do you think the quality of health care that

seniors and the disabled receive would improve, stay the same, or worsen?

{ROTATE IMPROVE/WORSEN, keep SAME in the middle}

- Improve
- Stay the same
- Worse

42. In thinking about the quality and cost of health care for government workers compared to private sector workers, do you think government employees receive better health care benefits, about the same health care benefits, or worse health care benefits? {ROTATE BETTER/WORSE}

- Better
- Same
- Worse

43. Would you favor or oppose allowing healthy people under medical supervision to sell their organs to patients who need them for transplants? {ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE} Is that strongly or somewhat?

- Favor
- Oppose

44. Ok now, would you please rate on a scale of 1-7 the following things according to the level of trust you have in each in addressing your health care needs. With 7 indicating a high level of trust, 1 indicating a low level of trust, and 4 being neutral. The first one is...

- A. Your doctor
- B. Your hospital
- C. Your pharmacist
- D. Your employer
- E. Your health insurance company
- F. Your self
- G. Your government

- 1 (Low Level of Trust)
- 2
- 3
- 4 (Neutral)

- 5
- 6
- 7 (High Level of Trust)

## Taxes

Now I'd like to ask you just a few questions about taxes...

45. {OPEN} What words come to mind when you think about preparing or filing your federal income taxes?
46. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current federal income tax system with a flat tax that eliminates all federal tax deductions and instead charges everyone the same tax rate? {ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE} Is that strongly or somewhat?
- Strongly Favor
  - Somewhat Favor
  - Somewhat Oppose
  - Strongly Oppose
47. {OPEN} If a flat tax were implemented, what percentage of their incomes do you think Americans should pay in federal taxes?
48. {OPEN} What percentage of Americans do you think paid no federal income taxes last year?
49. {OPEN} For every dollar you pay in federal taxes, about how much of it do you think the government wastes?

## Iran

Now turning to foreign policy...

50. If Iran were close to being able to produce a nuclear weapon, would you favor or oppose the United States military attacking Iran to destroy or delay its nuclear program? Is that strongly or somewhat? {ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE}
- Strongly Favor
  - Somewhat Favor
  - Somewhat Oppose
  - Strongly Oppose

51. If you were told that a US attack on Iran would start a war that is similar in length and costs to the war in Iraq would you favor or oppose attacking Iran? Is that strongly or somewhat? {ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE}
- Strongly Favor
  - Somewhat Favor
  - Somewhat Oppose
  - Strongly Oppose

### 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:

52. “The less government the better”; OR, “there are more things that government should be doing”. (ROTATE)
- The less government the better
  - More things government should be doing
53. “The government should be doing more to regulate businesses”; OR, “Too often, government regulation of businesses does more harm than good”. (ROTATE)
- Government do more to regulate business
  - Too often, government regulation of business does more harm than good
54. “We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems”; OR, “People would be better able to handle today’s problems within a free market with less government involvement”. (ROTATE)
- Strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems
  - People would be better able to handle today’s problems with a free market and less government involvement
55. 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 promote traditional values
  - Government not favor any particular set of values
56. Some say the government should do more to protect morality in society. Others say government is getting too involved in the issue of morality. Which comes closer to your own view? (ROTATE)
- Government do more to protect morality
  - Government too involved in the issue of morality

## Political

57. 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

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

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Other

59. Do you think of yourself as CLOSER to the Republican Party, Democratic Party, or what? {If SOME OTHER PARTY} Which party? {ROTATE Republican Party/Democratic Party}

- Republican Party
- Democratic Party
- Neither Party
- Other Party \_\_\_\_\_

60. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement or not? {IF NO} Did you ever consider yourself in the past to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

- Current Supporter
- Past Supporter
- Not a supporter

61. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Occupy Wall Street movement or not? {IF NO} Did you ever consider yourself in the past to be a supporter of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

- Current Supporter
- Past Supporter
- Not a supporter

## 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...

62. 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 \$250,000
- More than \$250,000

63. 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*)

64. 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} 66a. Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government?

- Yes
- No

{If RETIRED} 66b. Before retiring, did you primarily work as a public sector or private sector employee?

- Public Sector

- Private Sector
- Did not work outside the home
- Both (*Not read aloud*)

65. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or no religion? (ROTATE all except Other and No Religion).

- Protestant (*Christian*)
- Catholic
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other (SPECIFY)
- No Religion

66. {If Protestant/Christian} Would you describe yourself as 'born-again' or evangelical?

67. How often do you attend religious services? Would you say...

- Once a Week (*or more*)
- A few times a month
- A few times a year
- Never

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

- Landline Only
- Cell Phone Only
- Both

69a. {IF BOTH} Do you primarily use a landline or a mobile phone?

- Mainly landline
- Mainly mobile phone
- Use both equally (not read aloud)

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