

# **SEPTEMBER 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS**

## **RELEASED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

The Reason-Rupe September 2013 Poll interviewed 1,013 adults on both mobile (509) and landline (504) phones, including 262 respondents without landlines from September 4–8, 2013 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia using live telephone interviews. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7%. Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) conducted the survey. Interviews were done in English by Braun Research, Incorporated. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. When feasible, answer choices within questions were rotated or randomized. Don't know/Refused responses are voluntary. Due to rounding, accumulated responses may not total 100%. For more methodological information, please visit http:reason.com/reason-rupe-poll-methodology.

The poll questionnaire, crosstabs, and analysis can be found at reason.com/poll



- 1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

  - Wrong direction......61%
  - Neither (VOL.)......7%

  - Total......100%
- 2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

  - Disapprove......51%
  - DK/Refused......6%
- 3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

  - Disapprove......58%
  - DK/Refused......7%
  - Total......100%
- 4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

  - Disapprove.....72%
  - DK/Refused......7%
  - Total......100%
- In just a few words, what do you want Congress to do differently? (ASKED IF DISAPPROVE OF CONGRESS) (OPEN-END)

  - None/Nothing (VOL.) .....4%

  - Total......100%

- For every dollar you pay in federal taxes, about how many cents do you think are wasted by the government? (OPEN-END; RANGE 0 TO 100)
  - MEAN.....\$0.60
  - MEDIAN ......\$0.60

  - Total......100%
- 7. In your view, does the federal government spend too much money, too little money, or about the right amount of money?

  - DK/Refused......6%
- It is estimated that the federal government will spend about \$750 billion more than it collects in tax revenue this year. Do you think Congress should...
  - Balance the budget immediately.......40%

  - Balance the budget over 10 years ...... 16%

  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%
- What percentage of federal spending, from zero to 100 percent, would you cut across the board to help balance the budget? (OPEN-END; RANGE 0 TO 100)

  - DK/Refused......18%
  - Total......100%





- 10.The federal government is expected to hit its debt limit – which is the legal limit on how much the federal government can borrow to pay its bills – in the next few months. In general, do you favor or oppose raising the debt ceiling?
  - Favor......24%

  - DK/Refused......6%
  - Total......100%

#### RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 11, 12 AND 13

- 11. Would you be willing to support raising the debt ceiling if equal amounts of budget cuts are made, or not?
  - Yes, willing to support ......45%
  - No, not willing to support......46%
  - DK/Refused......9%
  - Total......100%

# 12. Would you be willing to support raising the debt ceiling if funding for Obamacare is cut off, or not?

- Yes, willing to support ......35%
- No, not willing to support......56%
- DK/Refused......10%
- Total......100%

# 13. Would you be willing to support raising the debt ceiling if not raising the debt ceiling means the U.S. defaults on its debt, or not?

- No, not willing to support......55%
- DK/Refused......10%
- Total......100%

#### RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 14, 15, 16 AND 17

14. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree.

Congress passes too many laws.

- NET AGREE......56%
- NET DISAGREE ......40%

- Completely disagree ......13%
- DK/Refused......4%
- Total......100%
- 15. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree. Congress passes too few laws.

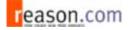
  - NET DISAGREE ......62%
  - Completely agree ......11%
- 16. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree.

Congress passes the wrong kinds of laws.

- NET AGREE......67%

- DK/Refused......5%
- Total......100%





17. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree.

Partisan gridlock keeps Congress from getting legislation passed.

- NET AGREE......69%
- NET DISAGREE ......19%

- Mostly disagree ......12%
- DK/Refused......12%
- Total......100%
- 18. Which of the following two statements come closest to your own opinion?

  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%
- 19. As you may know, members of Congress disagree about how much the federal government should spend. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion about why they disagree?

  - Neither/Other (VOL.)......4%

  - Total......100%

- 20. Would you describe those members of Congress who disagree with you on how much money the federal government should spend as generally moderate or extreme?

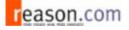
  - Total......100%
- 21. Turning to health care...so far, do you think the implementation of the federal health care law, known as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, is going very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?
  - Very well......10%

  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%
- 22. As you may know, the federal health care law requires nearly all Americans to obtain health insurance by January 1, 2014. Would you favor or oppose delaying this requirement for one year?

  - Total......100%
- 23. On another subject...As you may know, the city of Detroit recently filed for bankruptcy. In your opinion, should federal taxpayer money be used to bail out Detroit or not?

  - DK/Refused......5%
    - Total ...... 100%





READ TO ALL: Some state and local governments are finding they do not have enough money to fund government employee retirement benefits, including pensions and health care benefits.

## RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 24, 25, 26 AND 27

- 24. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits? Raising property, sales, or income taxes.

  - Oppose ......73%
  - DK/Refused.....1%
  - Total......100%
- 25. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits? Reducing spending on things like education, health care or infrastructure.

  - Oppose ......70%

  - Total......100%
- 26. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits? Reducing the benefits government employees receive.

  - Total......100%
- 27. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits? Requiring government employees to contribute more towards their own pensions and benefits.
  - Favor......78%

  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%

- 28. Government employees often receive guaranteed pension-style payments during retirement, while private sector workers will typically get payments from 401(k)-style accounts based on the amount they saved for retirement. For new government employees who have not been promised pension benefits, would you favor or oppose shifting them from guaranteed pensions to 401(k)-style accounts?
- 29. Next...In terms of sharing information with the public, President Obama has said, "This is the most transparent administration in history." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

  - Total......100%
- 30. When it comes to improving transparency and making government more open, would you say the Obama administration has exceeded your expectations, met your expectations, or not lived up to your expectations?
  - Exceeded your expectations......7%

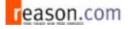
  - Not lived up to your expectations ...... 61%

  - Total......100%
- 31. Some say the National Security Agency's, or NSA's program to collect phone call records and Internet data on millions of Americans is (needed to fight terrorism), others say it's (a violation of American's privacy). Which comes closer to your own view?

  - A violation of Americans' privacy .......55%

  - DK/Refused......4%





- 32. Would you say learning about the N-S-A's surveillance program has (increased your trust in the federal government), (decreased your trust in the federal government), or has it not made much difference either way?
  - Increased your trust ......8%

  - Not much difference either way......55%

  - Total......100%
- 33. How likely do you think it is that you may have broken a federal law or regulation without knowing it? Would you say very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?
  - Very likely ......12%
  - Somewhat likely ......17%
  - Not too likely ......23%
- 34. Most of the recent information about NSA surveillance activities has come from former government contractor Edward Snowden. Would you say that Snowden is a (patriot for letting the public know about the government's surveillance of Americans), or that he is a (traitor for leaking government secrets to the media, whose reports are seen by America's enemies)?
  - Patriot for letting the people know ..... 35%
  - Traitor for leaking government secrets... 39%
  - Mixed opinion (VOL.).....16%
  - DK/Refused......9%
  - Total......100%

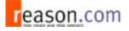
RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 35, 36 AND 37

- 35. Do you think the NSA should be allowed or NOT allowed to share the secret data it collects on millions of Americans with the Drug Enforcement Administration, or the DEA, for drug investigations that do NOT involve terrorism?
  - Should be allowed ......45%
  - Should not be allowed......45%
- 36. Do you think the NSA should be allowed or NOT allowed to share the secret data it collects on millions of Americans with law enforcement agencies searching for missing children, not related to terrorism?
  - Should be allowed ......68%
  - Should not be allowed......25%

  - DK/Refused......4%
  - Total......100%
- 37. Do you think the NSA should be allowed or NOT allowed to share the secret data it collects on millions of Americans with the IRS for tax investigations that do NOT involve terrorism?
  - Should be allowed ......28%
  - Should not be allowed......65%

  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%





## RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 AND 43

38. Do you trust Facebook a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some ......11%
- NET Only a little/Not at all......75%

- Only a little ......15%
- Not at all ......61%

- Total......100%
- 39. Do you trust Google a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

  - NET Only a little/Not at all......68%

  - Some......15%
  - Only a little ......19%

  - Total......100%

#### 40. Do you trust your cell phone service provider a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET Only a little/Not at all.....63%
- Some......21%

- DK/Refused......2%
- Total......100%

- 41. Do you trust your internet service provider a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

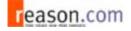
  - NET Only a little/Not at all......61%
- 42. Do you trust the Internal Revenue Service or IRS a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

  - NET Only a little/Not at all......64%

  - Total......100%
- 43. Do you trust the National Security Agency or NSA a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

  - NET Only a little/Not at all......59%





- 44. Turning to other issues...Do you think it is or is NOT the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes?

  - Is not the responsibility ......61%
  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%
- 45. In your opinion, do most poor people in this country have (a very good chance) of escaping from poverty, or (very little chance) of escaping poverty?

  - Little chance ......59%
  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%
- 46. Please tell me which of these statements you agree with more...
  - Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard ......63%
  - Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people.... 34%

  - Total......100%
- 47. Please tell me which of these statements you agree with more...or does it not make much difference either way?

  - Wealth can grow so there's enough for
     everyone......27%

  - DK/Refused......4%
  - Total......100%

READ TO ALL: Turning to Syria, where the government is believed to have used chemical weapons to kill civilians...

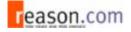
- 48. Do you think it is (wise) or (unwise) for the United States to launch airstrikes on Syria without the support of the United Nations or Great Britain?
  - Wise......17%
  - Unwise......74%
  - DK/Refused......8%
  - Total......100%
- 49. When it comes to launching U.S. military action around the world, would you say the political establishment in Washington D.C. is (more likely to favor military action than you are), (less likely to favor military action than you are), or about the same?

٠	More likely4	17%
٠	Less likely1	.7%
٠	About the same	30%
		= 0/

- DK/Refused......5%
   Total......100%
- 50. Do you think U.S. airstrikes against Syria are necessary or NOT necessary to protect America's credibility and national security?

  - Total......100%
- 51. Would you say President Obama's handling of foreign policy has been (better) or (worse) than former President George W. Bush's handling of foreign policy, or are they about the same?





- 52. As you may know, some Republicans in Congress such as Senator Rand Paul generally oppose U.S. military intervention overseas, including military action against Syria. Does this make you view the Republican Party (more favorably), (less favorably), or make no difference either way?
  - More favorably ......21%
  - Less favorably .....16%
  - No difference either way .....60%

  - Total......100%

### **ROTATE QUESTIONS 53 AND 54**

53. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- "The less government the better"......51%
  "There are more things government

- 54. Which comes closer to your own opinion?
  - "We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems" ... 43%
  - "People would be better able to handle today's problems within a free market with less government involvement".....51%
  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%
- 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?
  - Should promote traditional values ...... 47%

  - DK/Refused......6%
  - Total......100%

#### 56. GENDER

- Total......100%

#### 57. AGE

- DK/Refused......5%
- Total......100%

### 58. Race/Ethnicity

- 59. Which of the following BEST describes your current employment status?
  - Employed Full-Time ......41%
  - Employed Part-Time ......10%
  - Small business owner or self-employed ... 6%
  - Taking care of home and family......6%
  - Retired ......19%
  - Student......6%

REASON-RUPE Public Opinion Survey



- 60. Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government? (ASK IF EMPLOYED FULL-OR PART-TIME)

  - Private Sector Worker......79%

  - Total ...... 100%
- 61. Which of these statements best describes you?

  - Total ...... 100%

62. In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

- Republican......23%

# 63. Party Identification (DERIVED, Independent Leaners Sorted)

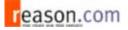
- Independent-Lean Democrat......14%
- Independent .....16%
- Independent-Lean Republican......15%
- Republican ......23%
- DK/Refused......4%
- Total ...... 100%

- 64. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as:
- 65. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

  - Total......100%
- 66. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?
- 67. What is your household income category?
  - <\$30,000......23%
  - \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 ......16%
  - \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 ......16%
  - \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 .....11%
  - \$75,000 but less than \$90,000 ......7%
  - \$90,000 but less than \$110,000 ......6%
  - \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 .......... 5%

  - DK/Refused......11%
  - Total......100%





- 68. Thinking about 10 years from now, what do you expect your annual household income to approximately be? (OPEN-END)
  - <\$30,000......7%
  - \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 ......15%
  - \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 ...... 12%
  - \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 ......8%
  - \$75,000 but less than \$90,000 ......6%
  - \$90,000 but less than \$110,000 ......9%
  - \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 ......4%
  - \$150,000 but less than \$250,000 ...........5%
  - \$250,000 or more......8%
  - DK/Refused......25%
  - Total......100%
- 69. (Compared to Current Income for under 55) Thinking about 10 years from now, what do you expect your annual household income to approximately be?
  - Expect lower income ......14%
  - Expect same income......20%
  - Expect higher income ...... 65%
  - DK/Refused......25%
  - Total......100%

#### 70. Region

٠	Northeast	
٠	Midwest	
٠	South	
٠	West	
٠	Total	100%

### 71. Community Type

٠	Rural 18%
٠	Suburban
٠	Urban
•	Total

- 72. In just a few words, what do you want Congress to do differently? (ASKED IF DISAPPROVE OF CONGRESS) (OPEN-END; FIRST **MENTION SHOWN**) Do their jobs/get more things done .... 28% • Work together/cooperate more/show less partisanship ...... 20% Listen to the people/not special . interests...... 11% Work on the economy (jobs, taxes)......9% • Show more support for President Obama ... 4% Elect new Congress members/clear out ٠ current members/support term limits....4% • End the war in Syria/Stay out/stop • Healthcare (Medicare, ObamaCare)......2% . Stand up against President Obama ...... 2% .
  - Reduce/stop government spending ......1%
  - Balance/regulate the budget......1%
  - None/Nothing (VOL.).....4%

  - Total......100%



