

# **DECEMBER 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS**

# RELEASED: DECEMBER 13, 2013

The Reason-Rupe December 2013 Poll interviewed 1,011 adults on both mobile (506) and landline (505) phones, including 277 respondents without landlines from December 4–8, 2013 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia using live telephone interviews. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7%. For Form A respondents (n=494), the margin of error is +/- 5.3%. For Form B respondents (n=517), the margin of error is +/- 5.1%. 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. 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

Don't know/Refused responses are voluntary. Due to rounding, accumulated responses may not total 100%. Responses less than 1% are denoted by a "\*".



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

  - Wrong direction......56%

  - DK/Refused......4%
  - Total......100%
- 2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

  - Disapprove......50%
  - DK/Refused......4%
  - Total......100%

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling healthcare?

- Disapprove......57%
- DK/Refused......5%
- Total......100%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

- Disapprove.....74%
- DK/Refused......6%
- Total......100%

 In just a few words, what would you say is the biggest problem facing the country today? (ASKED OF FORM A) (OPEN-END)

# • Jobs/Wages.....16%

- Congressional Gridlock/ • Societal Disunity ......11% Economy/Rising Costs......11% **Big Government** (Taxes, Spending, Overreach) ...... 10% Socioeconomic/Class Issues ......7% . . Immigration ...... 2% . . DK (Don't Know)......6% .
- 6. After next year's congressional elections, would you prefer the Democrats have a majority in Congress, the Republicans have a majority in Congress, or neither party have a majority in Congress?

  - Total ...... 100%





READ TO ALL: Now I am going to ask you some questions about the federal health care law, also known as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare...

- Given what you know about the federal health care law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it? [GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Is that a very or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?]
  - Total Favorable ......41%
  - Total Unfavorable ......53%
  - Very favorable......15%
  - Somewhat favorable......26%
  - Somewhat unfavorable......21%

  - DK/Refused......7%
  - Total......100%

8. Next, which of the following best describes your views about the federal health care law?

- You liked the law when it passed, and you still like it......26%

- You disliked the law when it passed, and you still dislike it ......45%
- DK/Refused.....1%
- Total......100%
- 9. What one word would you use to describe the implementation of the federal health care law so far? (ASKED OF FORM B) (OPEN-END)
  - Positive ......17%
  - Negative......65%
  - DK/Neutral......18%
  - Total......100%

- 10. Has implementation of the health care law thus far increased or decreased your confidence in government's ability to solve problems, or has it not made much difference either way?
  - Increased ......11%

  - DK/Refused......1%
- 11. If you had to choose, would you prefer the health care system designed by the 2010 federal health care law or the system that was in place prior to passage of the 2010 federal health care law?

  - System that was in place prior to passage of the 2010 federal health care law....55%
  - DK/Refused......11%
- 12. Whatever your overall view of the new federal health care law, do you favor or oppose provisions in the law that prohibit health insurance companies from denying coverage or charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?
  - Favor......40%
  - Oppose ......53%
  - DK/Refused......7%
  - Total......100%





- 13. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Pay higher taxes] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)
  - Acceptable ......24%
  - Unacceptable.....71%

  - Not applicable (VOL.)......1%

  - Total......100%
- 14. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Pay higher health insurance premiums] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)
  - Acceptable ......16%
  - Unacceptable.....78%

  - Not applicable (VOL.)......2%
  - DK/Refused......1%
  - Total......100%
- 15. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Switch doctors] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)
  - Acceptable......47%
  - Unacceptable.....46%
  - Depends (VOL.)......5%
  - Not applicable (VOL.).....1%
  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%

- 16. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)

  - Unacceptable.....73%

  - Not applicable (VOL.)....\*
  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%
- 17. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Have limited access to top quality doctors and health care providers] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

  - Not applicable (VOL.)....\*
  - DK/Refused......1%
  - Total......100%
- 18. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a primary care doctor for a check-up] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

•	Acceptable	21%
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- Unacceptable......74%
- Not applicable (VOL.).....1%
- DK/Refused......2%
- Total......100%





- 19. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a specialist or surgeon for a necessary procedure] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on preexisting conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)
  - Acceptable ......16%
  - Unacceptable.....79%

  - Not applicable (VOL.)......1%DK/Refused......1%
- 20. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Have fewer medical tests and treatments covered by your health insurance policy] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)
- 21. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Receive fewer medical tests and treatments] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on preexisting conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

## SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS 13 - 21

Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [ITEM] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?

	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a spe- cialist or surgeon for a necessary procedure	16%	79%
Pay higher health in- surance premiums	16%	78%
Have limited access to top quality doc- tors and health care providers	22%	76%
Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a pri- mary care doctor for a check-up	21%	74%
Have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals	22%	73%
Pay higher taxes	24%	71%
Have fewer medical tests and treatments covered by your health insurance policy	25%	70%
Receive fewer medical tests and treatments	24%	66%
Switch doctors	47%	46%





22. Of the following things that you said would be unacceptable to you so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions... which is the MOST unacceptable? (BASED ON MORE THAN ONE "UNACCEPTABLE" ANSWER IN PREVIOUS QUESTION)

ASKED OF FORM A

- Pay higher taxes......28%
- Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a primary care doctor for a check-up.......27%

- DK/Refused......6%

# ASKED OF FORM B

- Pay higher health insurance premiums.. 32%

- Have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals ......12%
- DK/Refused......5%

READ TO ALL: Under the health care law, some people say insurance premiums for younger and healthier people are generally going up in order to fund provisions of the law.

- 23. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it results in health insurance coverage for the uninsured? (ASKED OF FORM A)

  - Total......100%

- 24. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it helps pay for older and less healthy people? (ASKED OF FORM B)
- 25. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it helps pay for health insurance for people with pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

  - Total......100%
- 26. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it helps pay for expanded coverage for everyone, such as maternity care and mental health care? (ASKED OF FORM B)

  - Oppose ......65%

  - Total......100%
- 27. The federal government has sought to increase health care benefits for everyone by prohibiting low cost health insurance policies that do not cover certain things like routine check-ups, maternity benefits, or mental health care [IF NECESSARY: meaning individuals would have to pay these and other costs out-of-pocket]. Should the government prohibit these policies or should these policies be allowed?





- 28. When it comes to health care, would you say the typical member of Congress understands the health care system and the impact of the health care laws they pass very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?
  - Total Very/Somewhat Well ......25%
  - Total Not too/Not at all Well.....73%

  - Not too well......25%
  - Not at all well.....48%
  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%
- 29. To expand health care for low-income Americans, would you rather expand Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income Americans, or would you rather give tax credits to low-income Americans so they could purchase their own private health insurance?

  - Total......100%
- 30. Would you favor or oppose replacing the system of employer-based health insurance with a system where individuals purchase private health insurance in a marketplace, similar to how auto, life and homeowners insurance is purchased?

- 31. And, which ONE of the following BEST describes your current health insurance status?
  - Your main source of health insurance is through an EMPLOYER......43%
  - Your main source is private health insurance you bought ON YOUR OWN... 13%

  - DK/Refused.....\*
  - Total......100%

READ TO ALL: Turning to another topic...

- 32. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Do you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?
  - Favor......72%

  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%
- 33. Do you think the federal government should set a minimum wage, or not?
  - Yes, federal government should set a minimum wage......73%

  - Total......100%
- 34. What do you think the federal minimum wage should be? [ASKED OF THOSE WHO THINK GOVT. SHOULD SET MINIMUM WAGE] [OPEN-END]
  - MEAN......\$15.32
  - MEDIAN ......\$10.00

  - Total......100%





- 35. Do you think raising the minimum wage would reduce the number of jobs, increase the number of jobs, or have no impact on the number of jobs?

  - Increase the number of jobs......23%

  - Total......100%
- 36. What about if raising the minimum wage caused some employers to lay off workers or hire fewer workers? Would you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage?

  - Oppose ...... 57%
  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%
- 37. Do you view minimum wage jobs as stepping stones to help lower-skilled or younger workers gain skills, or as long-term positions for established workers to support their families?
  - Stepping stones to help lower-skilled or younger workers gain skills......61%

  - Both (VOL.) ......10%

  - DK/Refused......4%
  - Total......100%
- 38. Do you think the government should prohibit people from [Buying foods with trans fats], or should the government allow people to do this?

  - Allow......71%
  - DK/Refused......5%
  - Total......100%

- 39. Do you think the government should prohibit people from [Buying caffeinated energy drinks], or should the government allow people to do this?
  - Prohibit......21%
  - Allow......76%

  - Total......100%

- 42. Do you think the government should prohibit people from [Gambling in online poker games], or should the government allow people to do this?

  - Total......100%
- 43. Do you think the government should prohibit people from [Making a working gun with a 3-D printer that can create a variety of items from plastic], or should the government allow people to do this?

  - DK/Refused......10%
  - Total......100%





- 44. Do you think the government should prohibit people from [Buying genetic testing kits that provide information about a person's DNA (such as information about risk factors for certain diseases)], or should the government allow people to do this?

  - Allow......55%

  - Total......100%

#### SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS 37–43 Do you think the government should prohibit people from [ITEM], or should the government allow people to do this?

	r	
	Prohibit	Allow
Buying caffeinated energy drinks	21%	76%
Buying foods with trans fats	24%	71%
Playing violent video games	31%	66%
Gambling in online poker games	32%	65%
Using tobacco-free electronic	34%	62%
or e-cigarettes in public places		
Buying genetic testing kits that provide information about a person's DNA	37%	55%
Making a working gun with a	60%	30%
3-D printer that can create a		
variety of items from plastic		

READ TO ALL: Next...

45. Do you favor or oppose legalizing marijuana?

- Favor ...... 49%

- Total......100%
- 46. If you learned that a public official who you supported uses marijuana occasionally in his or her personal time, would you still support them OR no longer support them?
  - Still support ......52%
  - No longer support ......43%
  - DK/Refused......4%
  - Total......100%

- 47. If you learned that a public official who you supported uses cocaine occasionally in his or her personal time, would you still support them OR no longer support them?

  - Total......100%

READ TO ALL: Turning to other topics...

- 48. Would you favor or oppose eliminating mandatory minimum prison sentences for nonviolent offenders so that judges have the ability to make sentencing decisions on a caseby-case basis?
- 49. Amazon.com is developing a new system that would deliver packages to customers within hours of ordering the product using drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles. Does that idea make you think more positively or more negatively about the future?
  - More positively......45%
  - More negatively......44%
  - Neither positive or negative (VOL.) ......9%
  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%

50. Do you think local police departments using drones, military weapons and armored vehicles are necessary for law enforcement purposes, or are they going too far?

- Going too far......58%
- DK/Refused......5%
- Total......100%





- 51. Do you think TSA agents at airports should carry guns, or not?
  - Yes, should carry guns ......59%
  - No, should not carry guns......35%
  - Depends (VOL.)......4%
  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%
- 52. Do you think tighter restrictions on buying and owning guns would be effective or would not be effective in preventing criminals from obtaining guns?

  - Not effective ......63%

  - DK/Refused......1%
  - Total......100%
- 53. Of the following factors that some say might have helped prevent last year's mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which one do you consider MOST important?
  - Better mental health treatment ........... 27%
  - Stricter gun control laws......16%
  - Better parenting ......22%
  - Having armed school officials or armed guards on site ......20%

  - Total......100%

#### 54. On another subject...The Federal

Communications Commission is considering allowing air travelers to use their cell phones to make calls during commercial air flights. Do you favor or oppose letting people use their cell phones to make calls on flights?

- Favor......45%
- Oppose ......50%
- DK/Refused......5%
- Total......100%

- 55. And, how often do you play video games on a video game console, computer, tablet, or cellular phone: frequently, occasionally, rarely, or never?

  - Rarely......23%

  - Don't own device that can play video games (VOL.) .....\*
     DK/Refused.....\*
- - Total......100%
- 57. Thinking about the proper size and power of the government, would you say you generally agree with President Obama about the proper size and power of the government or do you generally disagree with his views?

  - Generally disagree......52%

  - Total......100%
- 58. Thinking about your views of cutting federal spending, would you say you agree more with President Obama or the Tea Party?
  - President Obama......45%The Tea Party......33%





## RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 59, 60 AND 61

59. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- "The less government the better"......48%
- DK/Refused......4%
- Total......100%

60. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- Total......100%

61. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- DK/Refused......5%
- Total......100%
- 62. 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 ...... 51%

  - DK/Refused......7%
  - Total......100%

#### 63. GENDER

- Total......100%

#### 64. AGE

- 65+.....17%
  DK/Refused......2%
- Total......100%

#### 65. Race/Ethnicity

66. Which of the following BEST describes your current employment status?

- Employed Full-Time ......40%
- Employed Part-Time ......12%
- Small business owner or self-employed ... 7%
- Taking care of home and family......7%
- Retired ...... 19%
- Student......7%
- Unemployed ......5%
- DK/Refused......1%
- Total......100%
- 67. Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government? (ASK IF EMPLOYED FULL- OR PART-TIME)

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

  - Total......100%





- 68. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

  - Divorced/Separated/Widowed......15%
  - Never been married ......21%
  - DK/Refused......2%
  - Total......100%

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

- Total......100%

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

- Independent-Lean Democrat......14%
- Independent ......13%
- Independent-Lean Republican.....14%
- Republican ......23%
- DK/Refused......2%
- Total......100%

# 71. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as:

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

# 72. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

- Not a supporter ......69%
- Total......100%
- REASON-RUPE Public Opinion Survey

- 73. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?
  - High school or less......41%

  - DK/Refused......1%
  - Total......100%

### 74. What is your household income category?

- \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 ...... 16%
- \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 ......17%
- \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 ......11%
- \$75,000 but less than \$90,000 ......8%
- \$90,000 but less than \$110,000 .....6%
- \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 ......6%
- \$250,000 or more......2%
- DK/Refused......8%
- Total......100%

#### 75. Region

Northeast	19%
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- Midwest......22%

# 76. Community Type

- Total......100%

