



# REASON-RUPE

## Public Opinion Survey

### JANUARY 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS

RELEASED: JANUARY 31, 2013

The Reason-Rupe January 2013 Poll interviewed 1000 adults on both mobile (500) and landline (500) phones, including 228 respondents without landlines from January 17 to 21, 2013. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8%. The margin of error increases for open-ended questions asked of subsets of the survey sample. Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) conducted the survey. Interviews were done in English by Princeton Data Source LLC. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. When feasible, answer choices within questions were rotated. 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](http://reason.com/poll).

1	Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?	
	Approve	52%
	Disapprove	42%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
2	Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?	
	Approve	48%
	Disapprove	47%
	Don't Know/Refused	5%
	Total	100%
3	Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?	
	Approve	17%
	Disapprove	74%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%
4	What ONE word would you use to describe Congress? (OPEN) (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)	
	<i>NET Positive</i>	11%
	<i>NET Negative</i>	85%
	Incompetent/Inept/Terrible/Bad	40%
	Partisan/Uncompromising/Stubborn	13%
	Greedy/Selfish/Corrupt	11%
	Childish/Immature/Irresponsible	5%
	Excellent/Good/Ok	4%
	Efficient/Hard Working	4%
	Honest/Dedicated	3%
	Other-Neutral	4%
	Other-Negative	16%
	Total	100%
	Answer Given	88%
	Don't Know/Refused	12%
	Total	100%

5	Overall...in recent years, do you think Congress has had a positive impact or a negative impact on the national economy – or not much impact either way?	
	Positive	10%
	Negative	53%
	Not much either way	32%
	Don't Know/Refused	5%
	Total	100%

6	In just a few words...what do you think should be President Obama’s TOP priority for his second term? (OPEN) (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)	
	Economy	29%
	Jobs	19%
	Federal Deficit/Cut Spending/Balance Budget	13%
	Health care	6%
	Fix Congress/Bipartisanship	5%
	American People/Uniting Nation	5%
	Gun control/Violence	3%
	Foreign Policy/Ending the Wars	3%
	Tax reform	3%
	Leaving Office/Fixing His Mistakes	3%
	Immigration reform	2%
	Education	1%
	Other	7%
	Total	100%
	Answer Given	94%
	Don't Know/Refused	6%
	Total	100%

7	In your view, does the federal government spend too much money, too little money, or about the right amount of money?	
	Too much	74%
	Too little	5%
	About the right amount	14%
	Don't Know/Refused	6%
	Total	100%

8 What one or two things in particular do you think the government spends too much money on? (OPEN) (Results below show first mention, ASKED IF Q7=1)

Defense/Military/Wars	21%
Themselves/Salaries/Campaigns	17%
Welfare/Social Programs	13%
Foreign Aid	13%
Entitlements	5%
Wasteful Spending	6%
Pork/Special Interests	4%
Health Care/Obamacare	3%
Federal Bureacracy	3%
Research Grants/Studies	2%
Corporate Bailouts	2%
Unemployment Benefits	1%
Other	9%
Total	100%
Answer Given	90%
Don't Know/Refused	10%
Total	100%

9 Which of these statements do you think best describes the federal budget deficit?

It is a major problem that the country must address now,	75%
It is a major problem that should be addressed when the economy is better, OR	20%
It is not much of a problem for the country?	3%
Don't Know/Refused	3%
Total	100%

10 In your opinion, what is the MOST important thing that should be done to reduce the national debt? (OPEN) (ASKED IF Q9=1)

Reduce Spending	36%
Tax reform/Increase taxes	9%
Jobs/Grow Economy	8%
Reduce Politicans' Pay/Perks	5%
Reduce Spending: Defense	6%
Reduce Spending: Entitlements/Welfare	5%
Reduce Foreign Aid	5%
Cut Size of Govt	4%
Pay Down Debt	4%
Other	18%
Total	100%

Answer Given	87%
Don't Know/Refused	13%
Total	100%

Earlier this month, Congress allowed the payroll tax holiday to end for all Americans and increased taxes on wealthier Americans to avert the so-called “fiscal cliff.” Experts agree that further Congressional action is necessary to reduce the national debt. Please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following proposals to reduce the national debt.

- 11 Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose increasing taxes on all taxpayers as a way to reduce the national debt?

<i>NET Support</i>	33%
<i>NET Oppose</i>	65%
Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	45%
Don't Know/Refused	2%
Total	100%

- 12 Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose increasing taxes on only wealthier households as a way to reduce the national debt?

<i>NET Support</i>	66%
<i>Net Oppose</i>	31%
Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	16%
Don't Know/Refused	3%
Total	100%

- 13 Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reducing spending as a way to reduce the national debt?

<i>NET Support</i>	85%
<i>NET Oppose</i>	12%
Strongly support	60%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	6%
Don't Know/Refused	3%
Total	100%

14	In just a few words...why do you feel taxes should be increased on wealthier households? (OPEN) (ASKED IF Q12=SUPPORT)	
	They Can Afford It/Impact Less	26%
	They Can Afford It/ Should Contribute More	25%
	Wealthy Get Tax Advantages/Loopholes/Paying Less Than Everyone Else	18%
	Middle Class/Poor Can't Pay More	6%
	Equality/Fairness	7%
	For the Common Good	5%
	They Have It Better	4%
	Income Inequality/Rich Reap Most Benefits from Economy	4%
	Everyone Should Pay More	2%
	Other	3%
	Total	100%
	Answer Given	97%
	Don't Know/Refused	3%
	Total	100%
15	The federal government is expected to hit its debt limit — which is the legal limit on how much the federal government can borrow — in the next few months. Do you think Congress should or should NOT raise the debt ceiling?	
	Should raise the debt ceiling	29%
	Should not raise the debt ceiling	64%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
16	If Congress decides NOT to raise the debt ceiling, which of the following do you think is likely to happen	
	It will cause a major economic crisis,	25%
	It will cause a minor economic downturn,	30%
	It won't cause a serious economic problem, OR	10%
	It will help the economy?	22%
	Don't Know/Refused	12%
	Total	100%

17	Over the past 20 years, federal government spending increased 39 percent per person, adjusted for inflation. Would you say the increase in federal government spending has (improved) the quality of life in the U.S., (reduced) the quality of life in the U.S., or has not had much impact either way?	
	Improved the quality of life	17%
	Reduced the quality of life	40%
	Has not had much impact either way	39%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
18	If the federal government reduces its spending levels to what was spent per person during the Clinton administration in the 1990's, plus inflation, do you think it would help the economy, hurt the economy, or would not make much difference either way?	
	Help the economy	49%
	Hurt the economy	12%
	Not make much difference either way	31%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%
19	Congress passed, and the president recently signed, a \$633 billion defense bill for 2013. To help balance the budget, do you favor or oppose cutting defense spending?	
	Favor	49%
	Oppose	45%
	Don't Know/Refused	6%
	Total	100%
20	What percentage of defense spending do you think could be cut — if any — without reducing U.S. security?	
	None	15%
	1% to less than 10%	21%
	10% to less than 25%	25%
	25% to less than 50%	14%
	50% to less than 75%	5%
	75% to less than 100%	1%
	100%	2%
	Don't Know/Refused	18%
	Total	100%

21	With the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq winding down, would you favor or oppose returning defense spending to the level of money spent during the Clinton administration, plus inflation?	
	Favor	61%
	Oppose	25%
	Don't Know/Refused	15%
	Total	100%
22	For every dollar you pay in federal taxes, about how many cents do you think are wasted by the government?	
	Mean	\$0.47
	Median	\$0.50
	Don't Know/Refused	11%
	Total	100%
23	Would you favor or oppose raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67?	
	Favor	31%
	Oppose	66%
	Don't Know/Refused	3%
	Total	100%
24	The Social Security and Medicare programs provide retirement and health benefits to everybody who meets the age or disability requirements, including the wealthiest Americans. Do you think these programs should be changed so that benefits are only provided to those who are below certain income levels, or not?	
	Yes	40%
	No	56%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
25	Social Security recipients receive increases in their benefits based on an estimate of increases in the cost-of-living. To slow down the rising costs of Social Security, some have proposed changing the method used to estimate increases in the cost-of-living so that benefits increase by a smaller amount. Would you favor or oppose this reform to Social Security?	
	Favor	39%
	Oppose	55%
	Don't Know/Refused	6%
	Total	100%



26	Would you favor or oppose eliminating all federal tax deductions and tax credits if it results in lower overall income tax rates?	
	Favor	50%
	Oppose	42%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%
27	Would you favor or oppose cutting the mortgage interest tax deduction if it results in lower overall tax rates?	
	Favor	59%
	Oppose	32%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%
28	Do you think raising taxes on wealthy households makes a meaningful difference in reducing the money available for investing in business start-ups, or not?	
	Yes, makes a meaningful difference	35%
	No, does not make a meaningful difference	58%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
29	Do you think raising taxes on wealthy households will (reduce) technological innovation, (increase) technological innovation, or not have much impact either way?	
	Will reduce technological innovation	12%
	Will increase technological innovation	11%
	Will not have much impact either way	73%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
30	As you may know, taxes were just increased on high-earners. Do you think that these individuals will reduce the amount they work and invest, or will this NOT affect the amount they work and invest?	
	Yes, will reduce the amount they work and invest	26%
	No, will not reduce the amount they work and invest	68%
	Don't Know/Refused	5%
	Total	100%

31	Which do you think is more important for technological innovation in our country	
	Private sector investment	66%
	Government investment	25%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%

32 In just a few words, what, if anything, should be the government's reaction to the school shooting that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut last month? (OPEN)  
*(Some respondents provided up to three answers, Percentages Sum to More than 100%, ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)*

% of Respondents Who Mentioned....		
	Nothing/Federal Government Should Not Get Involved	21%
	Security at Schools	20%
	Stronger/More Gun Control	16%
	Better Mental Health Services	12%
	Ban Assault Weapons/Large Magazine Clips	9%
	More Background Checks	7%
	Respondent Agrees with President Obama's Plan	7%
	Enforce Existing Gun Laws	6%
	Respondent Wants Government to do Something	5%
	Let States Handle Gun Laws	2%
	Ban All Guns/Turn guns and ammunition into authorities	1%
	Other	13%
	Answer Given	91%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%

33	Of the following factors that some say might have helped prevent the Newtown tragedy, which one do you consider MOST important?	
	Better mental health treatment	24%
	Stricter gun control laws	19%
	Better parenting	18%
	Having armed school officials or armed guards on site	17%
	Less violence in media and video games	10%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Something else	3%
	Haven't you followed this news story enough to say?	3%
	All of above	1%
	Combination of above	1%
	Total	100%

34	If the federal ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004 were still in effect, do you think it would have helped avoid the Newtown tragedy, or not?	
	Yes	27%
	No	67%
	Depends (VOL.)	1%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
35	If the federal ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004 were still in effect, how would it have helped avoid the Newtown tragedy? (OPEN) (ASKED IF Q34=1)	
	Would have made it more difficult for Lanza to obtain the weapons used	42%
	Would have prevented Lanza from obtaining weapons used	30%
	Weapons wouldn't have fired bullets so rapidly/reducing number of casualties	10%
	Other (i.e. no reason for civilian to own assault weapon)	18%
	Answer Given	93%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
36	Do you think people should be prohibited from owning assault weapons, or should people be allowed to own them?	
	Prohibited from owning assault weapons	44%
	Allowed to own assault weapons	51%
	Don't Know/Refused	5%
	Total	100%
37	In just a few words, how would you describe an assault weapon? (OPEN) <i>(Some respondents provided up to three answers, Percentages Sum to More than 100%, ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)</i>	
	% of Respondents Who Mentioned....	
	Automatic Weapon	29%
	Fires Rapidly	27%
	Large Magazines	23%
	Fires Multiple Rounds	17%
	Powerful/Dangerous Gun	15%
	Military Style Weapon	13%
	Any Weapon i.e. knife or gun	8%
	Semi-Automatic	7%
	Designed to kill many people	7%
	Not for Hunting or Traditional Protection	4%
	Other	6%

	Answer Given	93%
	Don't Know	7%
	Total	100%
38	Many elected officials have called for swift government action in response to the Newtown school shooting. Which comes closest to your view	
	Elected officials are exploiting the tragedy for political reasons	52%
	Elected officials are reacting responsibly	41%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
39	Do you or does any other member of your household own a handgun, rifle, shotgun, or any other kind of firearm? Is that you or another member of your household?	
	<i>NET Household Owns Firearm</i>	42%
	<i>NET Household Does Not Own Firearm</i>	54%
	Yes, self	17%
	Yes, other member of household	13%
	Yes, self and other member of household (VOL.)	12%
	No	54%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
40	Do you favor or oppose legalizing marijuana for recreational use?	
	Favor	47%
	Oppose	49%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
41	Some people argue the government should treat marijuana the same as alcohol. Do you agree or disagree?	
	Agree	53%
	Disagree	45%
	Don't Know/Refused	2%
	Total	100%

As you may know, voters in Colorado and Washington made it legal to grow, sell and use marijuana for recreational purposes in those states. Marijuana is still illegal under federal law.

42	Should the federal government arrest people who <u>use</u> marijuana in states that have legalized it, or not?	
	Yes	24%
	No	72%
	Don't Know/Refused	5%
	Total	100%
43	Should the federal government arrest people who <u>grow</u> marijuana in states that have legalized it, or not?	
	Yes	29%
	No	68%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
44	Should the federal government arrest people who <u>sell</u> marijuana in states that have legalized it, or not?	
	Yes	32%
	No	64%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
45	Please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion...the less government the better; or, there are more things government should be doing	
	The less government the better	47%
	There are more things government should be doing	46%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
46	Please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion...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 govt involvement	
	We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems	45%
	People would be better able to handle today's problems within a free market with less govt involvement	49%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%

47	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	50%
	Government should not favor any particular set of values	42%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
48	Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as...	
	Conservative	28%
	Moderate	23%
	Liberal	17%
	Libertarian	5%
	Progressive [or]	6%
	Something else?	15%
	Don't Know/Refused	6%
	Total	100%
49	In politics today, do you consider yourself a...Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?	
	Republican	22%
	Democrat	36%
	Independent	32%
	Or what	5%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
50	Do you lean more towards the Democratic Party or the Republican Party? {Asked of non-partisans}	
	Republican	30%
	Democratic	35%
	Independent/Don't Lean to Either Party (VOL.)	20%
	Other party (VOL.)	1%
	Don't Know/Refused	13%
	Total	100%

51	Party Identification Combined	
	Democrat	36%
	Independent Leaning Democrat	13%
	Independent	9%
	Independent Leaning Republican	13%
	Republican	24%
	Don't Know	7%
52	Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement or not?	
	Supporter	25%
	Not a supporter	62%
	Don't Know/Refused	13%
	Total	100%
53	Gender	
	Male	49%
	Female	51%
	Total	100%
54	What is your age?	
	18-24	14%
	25-34	17%
	35-44	17%
	45-54	18%
	55-64	17%
	65+	17%
	Don't Know/Refused	2%
	Total	100%
55	What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?	
	< High School	8%
	High School	33%
	Some College	32%
	College	16%
	Post-Grad	11%
	Don't Know	0%
	Total	100%

56	Race/Ethnicity	
	Caucasian	67%
	African-American	12%
	Latino	13%
	Other	7%
	Don't Know/Refused	1%
	Total	100%
57	What is your household income category?	
	Less than \$30,000 per year	29%
	\$30,000 but less than \$45,000	14%
	\$45,000 but less than \$60,000	15%
	\$60,000 but less than \$75,000	7%
	\$75,000 but less than \$90,000	7%
	\$90,000 but less than \$110,000	5%
	\$110,000 but less than \$150,000	8%
	\$150,000 but less than \$250,000 [or]	5%
	More than \$250,000	2%
	Don't Know/Refused	8%
	Total	100%
58	Thinking about 10 years from now, what do you expect your annual household income to approximately be?	
	Less than \$30,000 per year	5%
	\$30,000 but less than \$45,000	14%
	\$45,000 but less than \$60,000	14%
	\$60,000 but less than \$75,000	10%
	\$75,000 but less than \$90,000	7%
	\$90,000 but less than \$110,000	8%
	\$110,000 but less than \$150,000	4%
	\$150,000 but less than \$250,000 [or]	8%
	More than \$250,000	5%
	Don't Know/Refused	26%
	Total	100%
59	DERIVED: Expected income in 2013 compared to current income	
	Expect Lower Income	17%
	Expect Same Income	29%
	Expect Higher Income	54%



60	Which of the following best describes your current employment status?	
	Employed Full Time	41%
	Employed Part Time	11%
	Small Business Owner (Self Employed)	7%
	Taking Care of Home and Family (Homemaker)	8%
	Retired	18%
	Student	4%
	Unemployed	8%
	Disabled (VOL.)	3%
	Don't Know/Refused	1%
	Total	100%
61	Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government?	
	Yes	18%
	No	81%
	Don't Know/Refused	1%
	Total	100%
62	What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or no religion?	
	Protestant	48%
	Catholic	23%
	Jewish	2%
	Muslim	1%
	Other (SPECIFY)	5%
	No Religion	20%
	Don't Know/Refused	3%
	Total	100%
63	Aside from weddings and funerals, How often do you attend religious services? Would you say...	
	Once a Week (or more)	33%
	A few times a month	14%
	A few times a year [or]	29%
	Never?	23%
	Don't Know/Refused	1%
	Total	100%