



## MAY 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS

RELEASED: MAY 17, 2013

The Reason-Rupe May 2013 Poll interviewed 1,003 adults on both mobile (503) and landline (500) phones, including 263 respondents without landlines from May 9 to 13, 2013. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7%. 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. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?
  - Right Direction..... 34%
  - Wrong Direction..... 57%
  - Neither (Vol.) ..... 5%
  - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 5%
  - Total ..... 100%
2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?
  - Approve ..... 50%
  - Disapprove..... 43%
  - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 7%
  - Total ..... 100%
3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?
  - Approve ..... 45%
  - Disapprove..... 47%
  - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 8%
  - Total ..... 100%
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?
  - Approve ..... 16%
  - Disapprove..... 75%
  - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 9%
  - Total ..... 100%
5. Compared to this year's federal budget, do you think next year's federal budget should increase spending, decrease spending, or keep the same level of spending?
  - Increase..... 16%
  - Decrease ..... 54%
  - Keep the same level..... 23%
  - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 7%
  - Total ..... 100%
6. Thinking about the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives next year, which of the following would you most like to see?
  - More Democrats elected to Congress ..... 31%
  - More Republicans elected to Congress ..... 23%
  - More Independent and third party candidates elected to Congress ..... 38%
  - (Vol.) None of these/Keep things as is ..... 3%
  - (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 5%
  - Total ..... 100%
7. Next, which of the following best describes your views about the 2010 federal health care law, also known as Obamacare?
  - You liked the law when it passed and you still like it..... 32%
  - You liked the law when it passed, but like it less now ..... 7%
  - You disliked the law when it passed, but like it more now ..... 4%
  - You disliked the law when it passed and you still dislike it ..... 45%
  - (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 12%
  - Total ..... 100%
8. Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable view of Social Security?
  - *Net favorable*..... 64%
  - *Net unfavorable* ..... 28%
  - Very favorable ..... 25%
  - Somewhat favorable ..... 39%
  - Somewhat unfavorable ..... 17%
  - Very unfavorable ..... 11%
  - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 7%
  - Total ..... 100%

9. What one word would you use to describe Social Security? (OPEN)

▪ Positive.....	34%
▪ Negative.....	39%
▪ Neutral.....	11%
▪ Don't Know.....	16%
▪ Total .....	100%
▪ Good/Helpful.....	17%
▪ Unstable/Unsustainable.....	12%
▪ Bad/Sham/Hoax.....	10%
▪ Necessary/Vital .....	7%
▪ Broke/Underfunded .....	6%
▪ Mismanaged/Messy .....	5%
▪ Security/Reliable/Safety Net.....	5%
▪ Retirement Plan/Pension.....	4%
▪ Other (Vol.) .....	19%
▪ Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) .....	15%
▪ Total .....	100%

10. Do you currently receive any Social Security payments from the U.S. government?

▪ Yes .....	24%
▪ No .....	75%
▪ Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) .....	1%
▪ Total .....	100%

11. In general, do you think of Social Security as a retirement fund that workers pay into to finance their own future benefits, or do you see it as a transfer program where workers pay for the retirement benefits of current retirees?

▪ A retirement fund that workers pay into to finance their own future benefits.....	52%
▪ A transfer program where workers pay for the retirement benefits of current retirees.....	38%
▪ Both/Neither (Vol.) .....	6%
▪ Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) .....	5%
▪ Total .....	100%

As you may know, Social Security currently pays out more than it collects in taxes. Without any changes, the Social Security Trust Fund will be depleted in 2033, possibly resulting in a benefit reduction of 25 percent or more.

12. To slow down the rising costs of Social Security, would you favor or oppose changing the way benefits are calculated so they increase at a slower rate than they do now?

▪ Favor .....	57%
▪ Oppose.....	34%
▪ Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) .....	10%
▪ Total .....	100%

13. To deal with this financial shortfall...would you say it is more important to maintain the current level of Social Security benefits for seniors, even if it requires major tax increases or maintain the current level of taxes, even if it requires major Social Security benefit reductions by only paying Social Security to seniors in financial need?

▪ Maintain the current level of Social Security benefits for seniors, even if it requires major tax increases .....	47%
▪ Maintain the current level of taxes, even if it requires major Social Security benefit reductions.....	37%
▪ Both/Neither (Vol.) .....	8%
▪ Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) .....	7%
▪ Total .....	100%

14. Would you favor or oppose raising Social Security taxes to maintain current seniors' benefits today, even if current workers would eventually get back less in benefits than they paid in?

▪ Favor .....	37%
▪ Oppose.....	57%
▪ Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) .....	6%
▪ Total .....	100%

15. As you may know, the typical worker today will likely pay more in Social Security taxes than they will eventually receive in benefits. Would you favor or oppose a plan that would allow workers to opt-out of Social Security, meaning they could choose not to pay Social Security taxes and not receive Social Security benefits, and instead save that money in their own retirement accounts?

- Favor ..... 62%
- Oppose ..... 34%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

16&17ASKED OF SPLIT SAMPLE:

16. Would you favor or oppose allowing young workers to opt-out of paying Social Security taxes if it meant benefits for current seniors would have to be reduced?

- Favor ..... 38%
- Oppose ..... 55%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 7%
- Total ..... 100%

17. Would you favor or oppose allowing young workers to opt-out of paying Social Security taxes if it meant only paying benefits to seniors in financial need?

- Favor ..... 44%
- Oppose ..... 48%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 8%
- Total ..... 100%

18. Besides Social Security taxes, are you currently saving for retirement? (ASKED IF AGE<55)

- Yes ..... 58%
- No ..... 41%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... <1%
- Total ..... 100%

19. (If Not Saving For Retirement): At what age do you expect you will begin saving for retirement?

- Median/Mean ..... 33.5/38
- Total ..... 100%

20. (If Saving for Retirement): About what percentage of your annual income are you able to put into savings each year for retirement? Please make sure to count any money added each year to an IRA, 401-K or other retirement account by you or an employer. (ASKED IF AGE<55)

- None ..... 45%
- 1 to 2 percent ..... 5%
- 3 to 5 ..... 13%
- 6 to 9 ..... 9%
- 10 to 15 ..... 22%
- 16 to 20 ..... 2%
- 20 percent + ..... 2%
- (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

21. Do you think households headed by seniors are, on average, wealthier than the typical American household, less wealthy or about the same?

- Wealthier ..... 12%
- Less wealthy ..... 44%
- About the same ..... 41%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

22. Thinking about your grocery shopping over the past 30 days, did you primarily use paper, plastic, or reusable shopping bags to carry your groceries?

- Paper ..... 5%
- Plastic ..... 62%
- Reusable ..... 25%
- Mix (Vol.) ..... 6%
- None (Vol.) ..... 1%
- Don't go grocery shopping (Vol.) ..... <1%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... <1%
- Total ..... 100%

23. In general, do you think the government should determine the types of bags available at grocery stores and other retailers or do you think these choices should be left to individual consumers and the stores where they shop?

- Government ..... 15%
- Choices left to individual consumers and stores ..... 82%
- Both/Neither (Vol.) ..... 2%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

24. Do you favor or oppose a ban on plastic bags in all grocery stores and other retailers in the city or town where you live?

- Favor ..... 37%
- Oppose ..... 60%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

25. When it comes to plastic bags in grocery stores and other retailers, which of the following would you prefer:

- A complete ban on plastic bags ..... 17%
- A tax on plastic bags without banning them ..... 13%
- A policy that allows stores to choose if they want to provide plastic bags ..... 65%
- (Vol.) Neither/Other ..... 3%
- (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

26. Who do you think American society should view more favorably...a parent who chooses to scale back his or her career to spend more time raising their children or a parent who chooses to fully pursue his or her career while raising their children, or should Americans view both equally?

- Parent who scales back career ..... 17%
- Parent who chooses to fully pursue career ..... 6%
- Americans should view both equally ..... 74%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

27. Do you think it is necessary or unnecessary for parents of small children to make compromises in their careers to effectively raise children?

- Necessary ..... 80%
- Unnecessary ..... 13%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 7%
- Total ..... 100%

28. For middle class families who send their children to pre-school, should parents or the government be primarily responsible for paying for preschool?

- Parents ..... 57%
- Government ..... 32%
- Both (Vol.) ..... 6%
- Neither/Other (Vol.) ..... 2%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

29. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to raise taxes to create a universal government-run pre-school system for all children?

- Favor ..... 37%
- Oppose ..... 61%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

30. Next, do you think it should be legal or NOT legal for women to purchase birth control pills or patches over the counter without a doctor's prescription?

- Legal ..... 66%
- Not legal ..... 30%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

31. Just a rough guess, what percent profit on each dollar of sales do you think the average company makes after taxes? {SPLIT SAMPLE} (OPEN)

- Median/Mean ..... 30%/36%
- Total ..... 100%

32. Just a rough guess, what percent profit on each dollar of sales do you think the average manufacturer makes after taxes? {SPLIT SAMPLE} (OPEN)

- Median/Mean ..... 30%/34%
- Total ..... 100%

33. What do you consider to be a reasonable profit for the average company after taxes? {SPLIT SAMPLE} (OPEN)

- Median/Mean ..... 30%/36%
- Total ..... 100%

34. What do you consider to be a reasonable profit for the average manufacturer after taxes? {SPLIT SAMPLE} (OPEN)

- Median/Mean ..... 30%/35%
- Total ..... 100%

35. Do you think online retailers should be required or should not be required to collect sales taxes from customers who make purchases on the Internet?

- Should be required ..... 51%
- Should not be required ..... 45%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

36. As you may know, the U.S. Senate recently voted down gun control legislation. Do you think the Senate should debate and vote on gun control legislation again or should the Senate move on to other issues?

- Vote on gun control legislation again ..... 33%
- Move on to other issues ..... 62%
- Both (Vol.) ..... 1%
- Neither (Vol.) ..... <1%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

37. After the Boston Marathon bombings, which of the following do you think is more likely to happen: Government officials will learn from the attack and enact policies that will help avoid similar acts of terror in the future; or, government officials will overreact and enact policies that do more harm than good?

- Learn and enact good policies ..... 42%
- Overreact and enact harmful policies ..... 49%
- (Vol.) Neither/Officials won't do anything ..... 4%
- (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 5%
- Total ..... 100%

38. Thinking about the manhunt for the suspected terrorist in a Boston neighborhood...what if this happened in your own community? Does this make you more likely to want a gun in your home, less likely to want a gun in your home, or does it not make much difference either way

- More likely to want a gun in home ..... 31%
- Less likely to want gun in home ..... 9%
- Not make much difference either way ..... 54%
- Already have gun in household (Vol.) ..... 5%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 1%
- Total ..... 100%

39. Some Americans own 3-D printers, which can make a variety of plastic objects. Do you think Americans should or should not be allowed to use this technology in their own homes?

- Should ..... 62%
- Should not ..... 29%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 9%
- Total ..... 100%

40. (IF 39=SHOULD) 3-D printers can be used to make guns or gun parts. Do you think Americans should or should not be allowed to print their own guns or gun parts in their own homes?

- Should ..... 44%
- Should not ..... 53%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

41. Many states have legalized marijuana use for medical or recreational purposes; however, marijuana is still illegal under federal law. Would you favor or oppose a bill in Congress that would prevent the federal government from prosecuting people who grow, possess, or sell marijuana in the states that have legalized it?

- Favor ..... 52%
- Oppose ..... 42%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 6%
- Total ..... 100%

42. Which approach do you think government and law enforcement should take toward someone found smoking marijuana or in possession of a small amount of marijuana? Should they...

- Send them to jail ..... 6%
- Require them to attend rehabilitation or substance abuse counseling ..... 20%
- Make them pay a fine ..... 32%
- Or not punish them at all ..... 35%
- Neither/Other/More than one (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

43. Congress is considering replacing the TSA's airport security screeners with screeners from private security firms that would continue to be monitored by the TSA. Do you favor or oppose replacing the TSA's airport security screeners with screeners from private security firms?

- Favor ..... 42%
- Oppose ..... 47%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 12%
- Total ..... 100%

44. Do you think the TSA's requirement that travelers take off their shoes at airport security is needed or not needed to prevent a terrorist attack?

- Needed ..... 58%
- Not needed ..... 39%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

45. Do you think the TSA's ban on regular-sized bottles of shampoo and other toiletries in carry-on luggage is needed or not needed to prevent a terrorist attack?

- Needed ..... 44%
- Not needed ..... 51%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

46. Do you think the TSA's ban on pocket-sized knives is needed or not needed to prevent a terrorist attack?

- Needed ..... 59%
- Not needed ..... 38%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 3%
- Total ..... 100%

47. As I read the following pairs of statements, please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion:

- The less government the better ..... 48%
- There are more things government should be doing ..... 47%
- (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 5%
- Total ..... 100%

48. As I read the following pairs of statements, please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion:

- 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 government involvement ..... 51%
- (Vol.) Don't Know/Refused ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

49. 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?

- Promote traditional values ..... 48%
- Not favor any particular set of values ..... 47%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 5%
- Total ..... 100%

50. As you may have heard, an active professional athlete recently announced that he is gay. Do you think having an openly gay professional athlete is a positive development for society, a negative development for society, or doesn't it make much impact either way?

- Positive development for society ..... 25%
- Negative development for society ..... 17%
- Not much impact either way ..... 57%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 1%
- Total ..... 100%

51. If your favorite athlete announced that he or she is gay, would you say you'd be more likely to support him or her, less likely to support him or her, or would it not make much difference either way?

- More likely to support ..... 10%
- Less likely to support ..... 12%
- Not make much difference ..... 77%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 1%
- Total ..... 100%

52. GENDER

- Male ..... 48%
- Female ..... 52%
- Total ..... 100%

53. What is your age?

- 18-24 ..... 13%
- 25-34 ..... 17%
- 35-44 ..... 17%
- 45-54 ..... 18%

■ 55-64 ..... 17%

■ 65+ ..... 17%

■ Don't Know/Refused ..... 1%

■ Total ..... 100%

54. Race/Ethnicity

- White ..... 67%
- African-American ..... 12%
- Hispanic ..... 13%
- Other ..... 7%
- Don't Know/Refused ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

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

- Married ..... 47%
- Living with a partner ..... 6%
- Divorced ..... 12%
- Separated ..... 4%
- Widowed ..... 6%
- Never been married ..... 26%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... <1%
- Total ..... 100%

56. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your household?

- Yes ..... 27%
- No ..... 72%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... <1%
- Total ..... 100%

57. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- High School or Less ..... 41%
- Some College ..... 31%
- College ..... 15%
- Post-Grad ..... 12%
- Don't Know ..... <1%
- Total ..... 100%

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

- Less than \$30,000 per year ..... 26%
- \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 ..... 16%
- \$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 ..... 7%
- \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 ..... 6%
- \$150,000 but less than \$250,000 ..... 4%
- More than \$250,000 ..... 3%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 8%
- Total ..... 100%

59. Thinking about 10 years from now, what do you expect your annual household income to approximately be? (OPEN)

- < \$30,000 ..... 8%
- \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 ..... 14%
- \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 ..... 10%
- \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 ..... 10%
- \$75,000 but less than \$99,000 ..... 11%
- \$99,000 but less than \$110,000 ..... 8%
- \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 ..... 5%
- \$150,000 but less than \$250,000 ..... 7%
- \$250,000+ ..... 7%
- Don't Know ..... 20%
- Total ..... 100%

60. (Compared to Current Income)

- Expect Lower Income ..... 12%
- Expect Same Income ..... 22%
- Expect Higher Income ..... 46%
- Don't Know ..... 20%
- Total ..... 100%

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

- Employed Full Time ..... 42%
- Employed Part Time ..... 10%
- Small Business Owner ..... 6%
- Taking Care of Home and Family ..... 6%
- Retired ..... 18%
- Student ..... 5%
- Unemployed ..... 9%
- Disabled (VOL) ..... 3%
- Don't Know/Refused ..... 1%
- Total ..... 100%

62. {IF EMPLOYED): Public or Private Sector Worker:

- Public Sector Worker ..... 15%
- Private Sector Worker ..... 83%
- Don't Know/Refused ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

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

- Republican ..... 24%
- Democrat ..... 34%
- Independent ..... 34%
- Or what? ..... 6%
- Don't Know/Refused ..... 2%
- Total ..... 100%

64. Party Identification (DERIVED, Independent Leaners Sorted)

- Democrat ..... 34%
- Independent-Lean Democrat ..... 16%
- Independent ..... 9%
- Independent-Lean Republican ..... 13%
- Republican ..... 24%
- Don't Know/Refused ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

65. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as...

- Conservative ..... 30%
- Moderate ..... 23%
- Liberal ..... 13%
- Libertarian ..... 4%
- Progressive ..... 6%
- Something else ..... 20%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 4%
- Total ..... 100%

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

- Supporter ..... 25%
- Not a supporter ..... 64%
- Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) ..... 10%
- Total ..... 100%

67. What one or two words come to mind when you hear the word "libertarian?" (OPEN)

- Positive ..... 14%
- Negative ..... 15%
- Neutral ..... 32%
- Don't Know ..... 39%
- Total ..... 100%
- Freedom/Liberty/Choice ..... 12%
- Democrat/Liberal ..... 5%
- Bad/Name Calling ..... 5%
- Independent ..... 4%
- Good/Positive Comment ..... 3%
- Crazy/Idiot ..... 3%
- Extreme/Radical ..... 3%
- Smaller Government ..... 3%
- Republican/Conservative ..... 2%
- Open-Minded ..... 2%
- Ron Paul/Rand Paul ..... 2%
- Confused/Misinformed ..... 2%
- Anarchist/Unrestricted ..... 2%
- Other ..... 15%
- Don't Know ..... 37%
- Total ..... 100%

68. Region

- Northeast ..... 19%
- Midwest ..... 22%
- South ..... 37%
- West ..... 23%
- Total ..... 100%

69. Community Type

- Rural ..... 17%
- Suburban ..... 47%
- Urban ..... 36%
- Total ..... 100%