

OCTOBER 2014 TOPLINE RESULTS

RELEASED: OCTOBER 9TH, 2014

The Reason-Rupe October 2014 Poll interviewed 1,004 adults on both mobile (503) and landline (501) phones, including 276 respondents without landlines, from October 1-6, 2014 from the continental United States and the District of Columbia using live tele-phone interviews. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8%. For Form A respondents (n=506), the margin of error is +/- 5.4%. For Form B respondents (n=498), the margin of error is +/- 5.4%. 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 and 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......58%

 - Don't Know/Refused7%

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

- Disapprove......50%
- Don't Know/Refused6%

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/ Refused
Aug 2011	47	48	5
Dec 2011	49	47	5
Mar 2012	48	46	5
Sep 2012	51	46	4
Jan 2013	52	42	7
Feb 2013	51	43	6
May 2013	50	43	7
Sep 2013	43	51	6
Dec 2013	47	50	4
Apr 2014	43	51	6
Aug 2014	43	52	4
Oct 2014	43	50	6

- 3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

 - Disapprove......51%
 - Don't Know/Refused12%

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/
			Refused
Sep 2013	35	58	7
Aug 2014	37	53	9
Oct 2014	38	51	11

4. 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?

•	Better35%
•	Worse
•	Same
•	Don't Know/Refused5%
•	Total100%

	Better	Same	Worse	DK/
				Refused
Sep 2013		32 .	32	3
Oct 2014		28.	33	4





- 5. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?
 - Approve19%
 - Disapprove......73%

 - Total......100%

	Approve	Disapprove	DK/ Refused
Aug 2011	14	81	5
Dec 2011	13	80	7
Mar 2012 .	15	78	6
Sep 2012	16	77	8
Jan 2013	17	74	9
Feb 2013	14	77	8
May 2013.	16	75	9
Sep 2013	22	72	7
Dec 2013	20	74	6
Apr 2014	17	74	8
Aug 2014		75	7
Oct 2014	19	73	9

- 6. Are you registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?
 - Yes, registered80%
 - No, not registered......20%
 - Don't Know/Refused<1%
- If November's election for Congress were held today, which party's candidate are you more likely to vote for in your district—[RANDOMIZE: Republican, Democrat], or some other party's candidate? (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS)

 - Refused......1%

- Thinking about the candidate choices you have at different levels. [First,/Next,] would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the [Candidates for House and Senate] (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS)
 - NET Satisfied......53%
 - Net Dissatisfied......35%
 - Very satisfied9%
 - Somewhat satisfied44%
 - Somewhat unsatisfied20%
- Thinking about the candidate choices you have at different levels. [First,/Next,] would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the [Candidates for state level offices] (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS)

٠	NET Satisfied	57%
•	Net Dissatisfied	33%
•	Very satisfied	12%
•	Somewhat satisfied	45%
•	Somewhat unsatisfied	19%
•	Very unsatisfied	14%
•	Don't Know/Refused	10%
•	Total	100%

- Thinking about the candidate choices you have at different levels. [First,/Next,] would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with the [Candidates for local-level offices] (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS)

 - Somewhat satisfied45%
 - Somewhat unsatisfied14%Very unsatisfied12%
 - Don't Know/Refused11%
 Total.......100%





- 11. How likely do you think an Ebola outbreak is in a US city? Would you say it is...
 - ٠
 - •

 - •
 - ٠
 - Not at all likely.....11%

Aug 2014 Oct 2014

NET-Likely	40	62
NET-Unlikely	56	36
Very Likely	11	23
Somewhat Likely	29	
Not Too Likely	34	25
Not At All Likely	22	11
DK/Refused	4	2

12. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the police? (Is that very or somewhat (un)favorable?)

- NET Favorable.....72%
- ٠
- •
- Somewhat unfavorable12% •
- Very unfavorable12% •
- Don't Know/Refused5%

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the police?

P	Apr 2014	Oct 2014
NET-Favorable	78	72
NET-Unfavorable		24
Very Favorable	42	37
Somewhat Favorable	36	35
Somewhat Unfavorable	10	12
Very Unfavorable	8	12
DK/Refused	4	5

- 13. Do you think police officers are generally held accountable for misconduct, or not?

 - No......45% • •

	Yes	No	DK/ Refused
Dec 2013	46	50	4
Oct 2014	50	45	4

- 14. It has been reported that some police officers stop motorists or pedestrians of certain racial or ethnic groups because the officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. Do you approve or disapprove of this practice by the police? (Do you strongly or somewhat (dis)approve?)
 - NET Approve......25% NET Disapprove70% •

 - Somewhat approve12% .

 - .

TREND FOR COMPARISON

It has been reported that some police officers stop motorists of certain racial or ethnic groups because the officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. This practice is known as racial profiling. Do you approve or disapprove of the use of racial profiling by the police?

	Approve	•	DK/ Re- fused
National Conference for Community and Justice/PSRA, Jan 2005	19	75.	6
NPR/Harvard/ Kaiser Survey, Oct 2001	21	75.	3





- 15. Do you think the number of cases of police officers using excessive force against civilians are going up, going down, or remaining about the same?

 - Total......100%

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you think cases of police misconduct, such as the use of excessive force or covering up mistakes, have been increasing, decreasing, or have stayed about the same over the past decade?

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	7106 2014
Increasing	41
Decreasing	9
Staying About the Same	48
DK/Refused	2

- 16. In general, do you think the police are too quick to use lethal force, or do they typically only use lethal force when necessary?
 - Too quick to use lethal force......45%
 - Only use lethal force when necessary49%
 - Don't Know/Refused6%
 - Total......100%
- 17. 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 case-by-case basis?
 - Favor......77%
 - Oppose17%
 - Don't Know/Refused6%
 - Total......100%

	Favor	Oppose	DK/ Refused
Dec 2013	71	24	5
Oct 2014	77	17	6

- 18. Do you favor or oppose allowing nonviolent drug offenders who have served their sentences to vote?
 - Favor......73%
- 19. Do you favor or oppose allowing nonviolent drug offenders who have served their sentences to petition a court to have their court records sealed, making them inaccessible to the public without a court order?

 - Don't Know/Refused5%
 - Total......100%
- 20. Just your impression, do you think the criminal justice system in the United States (treats white Americans more fairly than black and Hispanic Americans), (treats black and Hispanic Americans more fairly than white Americans), or are they treated about the same?





- 21. In recent years, do you think too much has been made of the problems facing black people, too little has been made, or is it about right?

TREND FOR COMPARISON

In recent years, do you think too much has been made of the problems facing black people, too little has been made, or is it about right?

	Too Much		Right Amount	•
<i>New York Times,</i> June 2000	30	22	42	7
CBS/New York Times, July 2008	23	20	48	9
CBS/New York Times, Apr 2010	28	16	44	12
Reason-Rupe, Oct 2014	33	23	37	7

- 22. Do you think the United States should increase its military presence around the world, decrease its military presence, or keep it at its current levels?

 - Don't Know/Refused4%
 - Total......100%

- 23. As you may know, members of Congress left Washington, DC, for a recess without holding a vote to authorize the use of military force against Islamic State insurgents, also known as ISIS or ISIL in Iraq and Syria. Do you think Congress should return to Capitol Hill before the November elections to hold a vote authorizing the continued use of military force in Iraq and Syria?
 - Should......78%
- 24. Which of the following do you think is the MAIN reason Congress has not yet held a vote on the authorization of military force against ISIS:

 - They don't want to put their vote on the official record......63%
 - They don't believe President Obama needs
 their authorization......15%
 - (VOL.) Some other reason (SPECIFY)5%
 - Don't Know/Refused8%
 - Total......100%
- 25. As you may know, the United States is conducting air strikes against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. Do you favor or oppose these air strikes?

26. Would you favor or oppose the United States sending ground troops to fight ISIS in Iraq and Syria?





- 27. In order to defeat ISIS, do you think the United States will need to send a large number of GROUND troops to Iraq and Syria, a small number of troops, or will it not be necessary to send troops?

 - Don't Know/Refused11%
- 28. How many months or years do you expect the current US military action against ISIS in Iraq and Syria to last? (ASKED OF FORM A)
 - MEAN53 months
- 29. As you may know, Congress passed a bill to arm Syrian rebels with US weapons to help fight against ISIS. Do you favor or oppose arming the Syrian rebels?

 - Total......100%
- 30. On a scale of 0 to 100 Percent, with zero being "least likely" and 100 being the "most likely," how likely do you think it is that the US weapons provided to Syrian rebels will one day be used against Americans soldiers or US allies? (ASKED OF FORM B)
 - MEAN 73 percent

- 31. How do you think the United States should pay for the military action in Iraq and Syria against ISIS? Should they pay for it by:
 - Borrowing money......6%

 - Cutting other federal spending......35%
 - Don't Know.....11%

 - Total......100%
- 32. If federal spending has to be cut to pay for the military action, what type of spending would you cut FIRST?
- 33. Do you think the US War in Iraq (reduced the threat of terrorism), (increased the threat of terrorism,) or didn't make much of a difference?
 - Reduced......14%

 - Didn't make a difference45%





- 34. If you can recall, did you support or oppose the US invasion of Iraq when it started in 2003?

 - (VOL.) Did not have an opinion6%

 - Refused......<1%
 - Total......100%

TREND FOR COMPARISON-MARCH 2003

Would you say that you support the war in Iraq or do you oppose the war in Iraq? (Pew Research Center, March 20-24, 2003)

Support7	2
Oppose2	3
Don't Know/ Refused	5

- 35. Looking back now on the 2008 financial crisis...Do you think the government definitely did the right thing, probably did the right thing, probably did the wrong thing, or definitely did the wrong thing by providing money in 2008 to banks and financial institutions who were in financial trouble?
 - NET Right Thing 40%
 - NET Wrong Thing......54%
 - Definitely Right Thing11%

36. Looking back now on the 2008 financial crisis...Do you think the government definitely did the right thing, probably did the right thing, probably did the wrong thing, or definitely did the wrong thing by providing money in 2008 to General Motors and Chrysler?

٠	NET Right Thing43%
•	NET Wrong Thing52%
•	Definitely Right17%
•	Probably Right26%
•	Probably Wrong21%
•	Definitely Wrong31%
•	Don't Know/Refused5%
•	Total

TREND FOR COMPARISON-NOVEMBER 2008

As you know, the government is potentially (committing)/(investing) billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing? (American National Election Studies 2008 Time Series)

Right Thing	54
Wrong Thing	38
Don't Know/Refused	8

- 37. As you may know, some businesses choose to re-locate their headquarters out of the country to reduce the amount they pay in US taxes on revenue they earn in other countries. Do you think the federal government should or should not make it more difficult for US businesses to move out of the country to reduce the amount they pay in taxes to the U.S.?
 - Should make it more difficult66%
 - Should not make it more difficult......30%





- 38. As you may know, the US has one of the highest corporate income tax rates among industrialized countries. Do you favor raising US corporate tax rates, keeping US corporate tax rates where they are now, lowering US corporate tax rates to match those of other industrialized countries, or lowering US corporate tax rates below those of other industrialized countries?
 - Raise14%

 - Lowering to match industrialized countries32%
 - Lowering below industrialized countries....11%
- 39. Some businesses move from one state to another to lower their taxes. Do you think this is an acceptable or unacceptable reason for a business to relocate to another state? (ASKED OF FORM A)
 - Acceptable......63%

 - Total......100%
- 40. Some states give special tax credits and taxpayerfunded subsidies to businesses to entice them to move from other states. Do you favor or oppose your state providing subsidies and special tax credits to businesses that move from other states? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- 41. Next, do you think it should be legal or illegal for adult women to purchase birth control pills or patches over the counter without a doctor's prescription?

 - Don't Know/Refused4%
 - Total......100%

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you think it should be legal or illegal for adult women to purchase birth control pills or patches over the counter without a doctor's prescription?

	Legal	Not Legal	DK/
			Refused
May 2013	66		4
Oct 2014	70		4

- 42. Do you think doctors should be allowed to prescribe their patients pharmaceutical drugs that have not yet been approved by the Federal Drug Administration or FDA, or should this be prohibited?
 - Allowed......27%

 - Don't Know/Refused6%
 - Total......100%
- 43. When it comes to childhood diseases, like measles, mumps, and whooping cough, should all children be required to get vaccinations or should parents be able to decide whether or not to vaccinate their children?
 - All children should be required 60%
 - Parents should be able to decide not to..... 37%

 - Total......100%





- 44. Should children who have NOT been vaccinated from diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough be allowed or not allowed to attend public schools?

 - Not Allowed......52%

 - Refused......1%

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements, using a scale from 1 to 7 in which 1 means you totally disagree and 7 means you totally agree:

45a. "People should be allowed to keep what they produce, even if there are others with greater needs"

٠	1-Totally Disagree11%
•	2-Somewhat Disagree6%
•	3-Slightly Disagree10%

45b "The world would be a better place if we let unsuccessful people fail and suffer the consequences"

- 2-Somewhat Disagree10%
- 3-Slightly Disagree10%

- 6-Somewhat Agree7%
- 7-Totally Agree16%

- 45c. "Even if people try hard they often cannot reach their goals"
 - 1-Totally Disagree11%

 - 3-Slightly Disagree11%
 - 4-Neutral13%
 - 5-Slightly Agree22%
 - 6-Somewhat Agree11%
 - 7-Totally Agree24%
 - Don't Know/Refused2%
 - Total......100%

45d. "People who produce more should be rewarded more than those who just tried hard"

- 1-Totally Disagree18%
- 2-Somewhat Disagree7%
- 3-Slightly Disagree8%
- 4-Neutral16%
- 5-Slightly Agree17%
- 6-Somewhat Agree11%

45e. "A distaste for hard work usually reflects a weakness of character"

- 1-Totally Disagree 19%
- 7-Totally Agree23%
- Total......100%





- 45f. "People need to stand on their own two feet no matter what"
 - 1-Totally Disagree11%
 - 2-Somewhat Disagree7%

 - 4-Neutral14%
 - 5-Slightly Agree17%
 - 6-Somewhat Agree9%

 - Don't Know/Refused2%
 - Total......100%

45g. "Sometimes the government needs to make laws that keep people from hurting themselves"

- 1-Totally Disagree11%

- 4-Neutral12%
- 6-Somewhat Agree13%
- Don't Know/Refused2%

45h. "People should be free to do dangerous and selfdestructive things, as long as they don't put others at risk."

- 3-Slightly Disagree7%
- 5-Slightly Agree13%
- 7-Totally Agree19%
- Don't Know/Refused2%
- Total......100%

- 45i. "If people work hard they almost always get what they want"
 - 1-Totally Disagree17%

 - 3-Slightly Disagree10%
 - 9 4-Neutral15%
 - 5-Slightly Agree 19%
 - 6-Somewhat Agree10%
 - 7-Totally Agree21%
 - Don't Know/Refused1%
 - Total......100%
- 46. Next...as I read the following pairs of statements, please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion. First...
 - "We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems" 44%
- 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?

 - Not favor any particular set of values.......46%

 - Total......100%





- 48. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a larger government providing more services? (Is that Much/Slightly Smaller Govt w/ Fewer Services) (Much/Slightly Larger Govt w/ More Services?)
 - NET Smaller government/fewer services ... 47%
 - NET Larger government/more services 46%
 - Much Smaller Govt/A Lot Fewer Services .. 18%

 - Much Larger Govt/A Lot More Services 11%
 - Don't Know/Refused7%
 - Total......100%

DEMOGRAPHICS

49. GENDER

•	Male	49%
٠	Female	51%
•	Total	100%

50. AGE

٠	18-24	
•	25-34	
•	35-44	
٠	45-54	
٠	55-64	
٠	65+	
٠	Don't Know/Refused	2%
•	Total	

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

- Republican.....24%
- Democrat......32%
- Something Else7%
- Don't Know......2%
- Refused......2%
- Total......100%

- 52. Party Identification (DERIVED, Independent Leaners Sorted)

 - Republican24%

 - Refused......1%
 - Total......100%
- 53. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as:

 - Liberal......15%
- 54. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

 - Don't Know/Refused11%
- 55. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?
 - High school or less......40%

 - Total......100%





56. Race/Ethnicity

	•	White	65%
	•	African-American	12%
	•	Hispanic	13%
	•	Other	7%
	•	Don't Know/Refused	3%
	•	Total	100%
57.		ould you describe yourself as a 'born-aga angelical Christian?	in' or
	•	Yes, would	37%
	•	No, would not	59%
	•	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	•	Total	100%
58.	Wł	nat is your household income category?	
	•	<\$30,000	23%

•	<\$30,000	
•	\$30,000 but less than \$45,000	17%
•	\$45,000 but less than \$60,000	17%
•	\$60,000 but less than \$75,000	10%
•	\$75,000 but less than \$90,000	
•	\$90,000 but less than \$110,000	5%
•	\$110,000 but less than \$150,000	4%
•	\$150,000 but less than \$250,000	
•	\$250,000 or more	
•	Don't Know/Refused	10%
•	Total	100%

59. Region

•	Northeast	18%
•	Midwest	22%
•	South	37%
•	West	23%
•	Total	100%

60. Community Type

•	Rural	
•	Suburban	
•	Urban	34%
•	Total	



