



REASON-RUPE

Public Opinion Survey

SPRING 2011 TOP-LINE RESULTS

1. How would you rate the job performance of President Obama? Would you say you strongly approve, approve, neither approve nor disapprove, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of his job performance?

Strongly Approve	13.9
Approve	31.7
Neither Approve nor Disapprove	14.5
Disapprove	16.7
Strongly Disapprove	21.5
Don't Know/ No Response	1.6
Total	100.0

2. How would you rate the job performance of Congress? Would you say you strongly approve, approve, neither approve nor disapprove, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of Congress's job performance?

Strongly Approve	2.0
Approve	15.1
Neither Approve nor Disapprove	18.0
Disapprove	35.4
Strongly Disapprove	25.5
Don't Know/ No Response	4.1
Total	100.0

3. Is the country headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Right Direction	25.0
Wrong Direction	60.9
Both/ Depends	7.3
Don't Know/ No Response	6.9
Total	100.0

Nationwide telephone poll of both mobile and landline phones, 1200 adults, margin of error +/- 3%. Columns may not add up to 100% due to rounding error.

Reason Foundation

For more information on this survey, please visit <http://reason.com/poll> or email polling@reason.org

6. The national debt of the United States is over \$14 trillion, which averages about \$45,000 owed per resident. How important do you believe it is to reduce the national debt? Would you say it is...

Very Important	69.1
Important	16.8
Moderately Important	9.6
Not Very Important	1.4
Not at All Important	1.6
Don't Know/ No Response	1.6
Total	100.0

7. Which of the following options comes closest to your view about the best way to reduce the national debt?

Increase Taxes/ Maintain Current Spending	3.6
Primarily Increasing Taxes/ Some Reduction in Spending	8.1
Equal Emphasis Raising Taxes & Reducing Spending	14.4
Primarily Reducing Spending/ Some Increase in Taxes	16.1
Reduce Spending/ Maintain Current Level of Taxes	45.3
Do Nothing about the Debt	1.2
Don't Know/ No Response	11.3
Total	100.0

8. Please tell me whether you agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or disagree strongly with the following statement:

"The federal government should have a spending cap that prevents it from spending more than it takes in during a given year."

Strongly Agree	44.3
Agree	29.9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	4.6
Disagree	12.8
Strongly Disagree	6.1
Don't Know/ No Response	2.2
Total	100.0

10. For the following proposals, please tell me whether you would strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each one.

10a. Changing the federal tax system to a flat tax, where everyone pays the same percentage of their income?

Strongly Support	35.2
Somewhat Support	21.0
Neither Support nor Oppose	7.9
Somewhat Oppose	9.6
Strongly Oppose	22.0
Don't Know/ No Response	4.3
Total	100.0

10b. Eliminating federal income taxes and replacing them with a national sales tax?

Strongly Support	15.1
Somewhat Support	17.8
Neither Support nor Oppose	13.4
Somewhat Oppose	16.6
Strongly Oppose	25.8
Don't Know/ No Response	11.3
Total	100.0

10c. Eliminating all tax deductions and tax credits, like the mortgage interest deduction, if it results in lower overall tax rates?

Strongly Support	18.8
Somewhat Support	24.7
Neither Support nor Oppose	11.9
Somewhat Oppose	15.5
Strongly Oppose	20.9
Don't Know/ No Response	8.2
Total	100.0

10d. Reducing Social Security taxes and allowing individuals to invest in their own retirement instead?

Strongly Support	25.0
Somewhat Support	16.4
Neither Support nor Oppose	9.8
Somewhat Oppose	12.8
Strongly Oppose	32.2
Don't Know/ No Response	3.7
Total	100.0

11. Thinking about the total amount you pay in federal, state, and local taxes, such as income taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes, would you say it is too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Too Much	51.0
Too Little	4.2
About Right	40.9
Don't Know/ No Response	4.0
Total	100.0

14. How much do you feel you know about public sector employee pay and benefits? Would you say you...

A Lot	17.8
Moderate Amount	29.7
Just a Little	33.1
Nothing at All	16.7
Don't Know/ No Response	2.7
Total	100.0

15. On average, do you think public sector employees have better benefits, the same benefits, or poorer benefits than those with similar jobs in the private sector?

Better Benefits	50.2
Same Benefits	17.0
Poorer Benefits	14.2
Don't Know/ No Response	18.7
Total	100.0

16. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose cutting public employee benefit plans to help balance state budgets?

Strongly Support	15.3
Support	21.6
Neither Support nor Oppose	8.8
Oppose	19.6
Strongly Oppose	24.5
Don't Know/ No Response	10.3
Total	100.0

17. As you may know, many states are seeking to reduce their budget deficits by passing laws that would take away some of the collective bargaining rights of most public sector unions. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, neither favor nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose such a bill in your state?

Strongly Favor	21.0
Somewhat Favor	15.2
Neither Favor nor Oppose	10.5
Somewhat Oppose	14.6
Strongly Oppose	28.0
Don't Know/ No Response	10.6
Total	100.0

18. As you may know, there has been a lot of talk these days about the collective bargaining rights of public sector unions. How familiar would you say you are with the process of collective bargaining? Would you say...

Very Familiar	20.4
Somewhat Familiar	33.7
Not Very Familiar	20.3
Not at All Familiar	20.1
Don't Know/ No Response	5.5
Total	100.0

19. How would you feel about making it legal for states to allow workers to form competing unions from which to choose, or do you think it would be best for workers to have one union? Which would you prefer?

Multiple Competing Unions - Strongly	32.5
Multiple Competing Unions - Not So Strongly	14.8
Single Union - Not So Strongly	10.0
Single Union - Strongly	18.1
Don't Know/ No Response	24.5
Total	100.0

20. Do you think public sector unions that represent employees of local, state, and the federal government are more helpful or more harmful to society?

Helpful	40.3
Neither	8.4
Harmful	35.9
Don't Know/ No Response	15.4
Total	100.0

21. I would like you to rate whether you think the government is not involved enough or too involved in the following areas on a scale of one to five, where one stands for "not involved enough," three stands for "about the right amount," and five stands for "involved far too much." You may use any number between and 5.

21a. Health care?

1 - Not Involved Enough	21.9
2	13.2
3 - About the Right Amount	18.8
4	10.7
5 - Involved Far Too Much	32.4
Don't Know/ No Response	2.9
Total	100.0

21b. Financial services, such as banking and mortgages?

1 - Not Involved Enough	17.7
2	10.5
3 - About the Right Amount	24.6
4	15.6
5 - Involved Far Too Much	27.2
Don't Know/ No Response	4.3
Total	100.0

21c. Communications, such as the Internet, cable TV, and cell phones?

1 - Not Involved Enough	9.2
2	9.0
3 - About the Right Amount	41.0
4	14.2
5 - Involved Far Too Much	21.7
Don't Know/ No Response	4.9
Total	100.0

21d. Energy, such as gasoline, natural gas, electricity, and oil?

1 - Not Involved Enough	22.5
2	13.9
3 - About the Right Amount	21.4
4	12.2
5 - Involved Far Too Much	26.8
Don't Know/ No Response	3.1
Total	100.0

21e. Food and beverage choices?

1 - Not Involved Enough	11.2
2	8.8
3 - About the Right Amount	39.5
4	9.9
5 - Involved Far Too Much	24.2
Don't Know/ No Response	6.5
Total	100.0

21f. Education?

1 - Not Involved Enough	26.8
2	16.8
3 - About the Right Amount	24.4
4	11.4
5 - Involved Far Too Much	18.4
Don't Know/ No Response	2.3
Total	100.0

21g. Marriage?

1 - Not Involved Enough	9.6
2	6.7
3 - About the Right Amount	28.1
4	11.6
5 - Involved Far Too Much	36.7
Don't Know/ No Response	7.4
Total	100.0

21h. Recreational drug use?

1 - Not Involved Enough	22.2
2	14.8
3 - About the Right Amount	29.0
4	9.6
5 - Involved Far Too Much	18.5
Don't Know/ No Response	6.0
Total	100.0

21i. Culture and the arts?

1 - Not Involved Enough	18.2
2	13.7
3 - About the Right Amount	36.3
4	6.6
5 - Involved Far Too Much	16.8
Don't Know/ No Response	8.4
Total	100.0

21j. Environment and natural resources?

1 - Not Involved Enough	18.9
2	16.0
3 - About the Right Amount	30.2
4	11.5
5 - Involved Far Too Much	18.2
Don't Know/ No Response	5.3
Total	100.0

21k. Transportation

1 - Not Involved Enough	15.8
2	14.1
3 - About the Right Amount	44.7
4	10.3
5 - Involved Far Too Much	10.6
Don't Know/ No Response	4.5
Total	100.0

22. If Congress were only in session every other year, do you think the country would be better off, worse off, no difference?

Better Off	16.3
Worse Off	35.9
No Difference	41.7
Don't Know/ No Response	6.1
Total	100.0

23. Which political party do you trust more to govern responsibly?

Democratic Party	30.5
Republican Party	23.3
Other	2.8
Neither	35.1
Both/ All about the Same	4.2
Don't Know/ No Response	4.2
Total	100.0

24. Would you consider voting for an independent or third-party candidate for president in 2012?

Yes	60.0
No	17.4
Maybe/ Possibly	20.2
Don't Know/ No Response	2.4
Total	100.0

25. How would you describe your views about the Tea Party?

Very Unfavorable	25.1
Somewhat Unfavorable	16.8
Somewhat Favorable	23.5
Very Favorable	16.1
Don't Know/ No Response	18.6
Total	100.0

26. Some states have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana for the treatment of certain medical conditions where research has demonstrated it is an effective treatment. These conditions include glaucoma and pain management for cancer. Federal law prohibits the use of marijuana for any purpose. Which of the following two statements is closer to your own view?

Allow Each State to Decide How to Regulate	68.8
States Not Allowed to Have Different Rules	27.4
Don't Know/ No Response	3.8
Total	100.0

27. How do you feel about the legalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use? Do you strongly support, support, neither support nor oppose, oppose, or strongly oppose the legalization of small quantities of marijuana for personal use?

Strongly Support	24.2
Support	17.1
Neither Support nor Oppose	12.7
Oppose	17.2
Strongly Oppose	26.7
Don't Know/ No Response	2.0
Total	100.0

Now, I am going to ask you some questions for demographic purposes only. These questions are completely anonymous and help us determine what people in different education levels, income levels, etc. think about important matters. First...

28. Gender	%
Male	48.0
Female	52.0
Total	100.0

29. To make sure that we have a representative sample of people in the United States, which of the following categories best describes your age?

18 to 29	16.7
30 to 44	29.2
45 to 54	20.8
55 to 64	20.8
65 or Older	12.5
Total	100.0

30. What is your marital status?

Married	61.5
Single - Never Married	22.8
Divorced/ Separated	8.4
Widowed	5.2
No Response	2.1
Total	100.0

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

Less than \$25,000	14.6
\$25,000 to \$49,999	21.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.9
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.7
\$100,000 to \$199,999	15.8
\$200,000 or More	3.5
Don't Know/ No Response	10.1
Total	100.0

32. Do you have money invested in the stock market?

Yes	44.9
No	51.4
No Response	3.7
Total	100.0

33. Did you pay federal income taxes last year?

Yes	80.6
No	16.7
No Response	2.7
Total	100.0

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

Employed Full-Time	47.0
Employed Part-Time	8.7
Small Business Owner/ Self-Employed	7.2
Taking Care of Home/ Family	6.5
Retired	18.0
Student	3.5
Unemployed	7.5
No Response	1.6
Total	100.0

35. {If answered (1) for 34} Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government?

Yes	29.3
No	69.3
No Response	1.4
Total	100.0

36. Are you, or is anyone in your family, a member of a union?

Yes	24.9
No	72.8
No Response	2.2
Total	100.0

37. Is your family covered by health insurance?

Yes	88.8
No	9.6
No Response	1.6
Total	100.0

38. Is that insurance provided through an employer?

Yes	73.2
No	25.4
No Response	1.4
Total	100.0

39. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	91.1
No	7.5
No Response	1.4
Total	100.0

40. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or no religion?

Protestant	44.9
Catholic	22.6
Jewish	2.8
Muslim	0.4
Other	5.0
No Religion	16.2
No Response	8.1
Total	100.0

41. How often do you attend religious services? Would you say...

More than Once a Week	13.5
Once a Week	25.6
A Few Times a Month	15.9
A Few Times a Year	20.1
Never	15.8
No Response	9.1
Total	100.0

How often do you attend religious services?

1. High Church Attendance	43.1
2. Moderate Church Attendance	17.5
3. Low Church Attendance	39.4
Total	100.0

42. With which political party do you most closely identify?

Democratic	37.8
Republican	30.5
Other	2.1
Independent/ No Party	23.7
No Response	5.9
Total	100.0

42a. {If answered (4) for 42} Do you think of yourself as CLOSER to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

Republican Party	30.0
Neither	40.9
Democratic Party	22.7
Don't Know/ No Response	6.4
Total	100.0

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

Conservative	34.1
Moderate	28.1
Liberal	14.9
Libertarian	4.5
Progressive	6.9
Other	0.2
Don't Know/ No Response	11.3
Total	100.0

44. When it comes to government spending, do you think of yourself as very conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal or very liberal?

Very Conservative	26.5
Somewhat Conservative	24.6
Moderate	28.1
Somewhat Liberal	8.5
Very Liberal	3.8
Don't Know/ No Response	8.5
Total	100.0

45. When it comes to social policy, do you think of yourself as very conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal, or very liberal?

Very Conservative	15.0
Somewhat Conservative	20.9
Moderate	29.6
Somewhat Liberal	14.8
Very Liberal	10.7
Don't Know/ No Response	9.1
Total	100.0

46. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Less than High School Graduate	4.1
High School Graduate	19.2
Some College	26.8
Trade/ Technical School	3.1
College Graduate	27.2
Post Graduate Study/ Degree	16.1
No Response	3.5
Total	100.0

47. Which of the following racial or ethnic groups best describes you?

White	65.0
Black	13.0
Hispanic/ Latino	16.0
Asian	4.5
Native American	0.8
Other	0.7
Total	100.0

53 Census Region

Northeast	18.4
Midwest	22.1
South	36.4
West	23.1
Total	100.0

54 Phone Type

Landline	71.6
Mobile	28.4
Total	100.0

Tea Party supporter

0. No	83.9
1. Yes	16.1
Total	100.0

Tea Party Supporter v GOP v Everyone Else

1. Tea Party supporter	17.4
2. nonTP GOP	28.9
3. Independents	9.8
4. Democrats	43.9
Total	100.0

Small Business Owner

0. Everyone else	92.8
1. Small Business Owner	7.2
Total	100.0

Party Identification (Combined 42/42a)

1. Democratic	41.8
2. Ind. Lean Democratic	5.9
3. Independent	10.7
4. Ind. Lean Republican	7.9
5. Republican	33.7
Total	100.0

Party Identification 5 (Libertarian, Constitutionalist, Tea Party Coded 3)

1. Democratic	40.8
2. Ind. Lean Democratic	5.8
3. Independent	10.5
4. Ind. Lean Republican	9.9
5. Republican	33.0
Total	100.0

Party Identification 3 (Combined 42/42a)

1. Democratic	47.7
2. Independent	10.7
3. Republican	41.6
Total	100.0

Party Identification 3 (Libertarian, Constitutionalist, Tea Party Coded 3)

1. Democratic	46.6
2. Independent	10.5
3. Republican	42.9
Total	100.0

Employed Full Time

0. Everyone Else	45.8
1. Employed Full Time	54.2
Total	100.0

Private Sector v Public Sector Employees (of Full Time/Small Bus)

0. Public Sector	25.7
1. Private Sector	74.3
Total	100.0

Private Sector Full Time v Everyone Else

0. Everyone else	60.0
1. Private Sector	40.0
Total	100.0



REASON-RUPE

Public Opinion Survey

METHODOLOGY Q1 SPRING 2011 POLL

The Reason-Rupe Q1 2011 poll was conducted by telephone from March 24th-April 9, 2011 using live telephone interviews and produced a nationally representative sample of 1200 adults 18 years of age and older from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. NSON Opinion Strategy conducted the poll's fieldwork. The margin of sampling error for this poll was ± 3 percent. Interviews were conducted with respondents on landline phones (859) and mobile phones (341). The sampling frame included landline and mobile phone numbers generated using Random Digit Dialing (RDD) methods and randomly selected numbers from a directory-listed sample. Landline respondents were randomly chosen within households based on the adult who had the most recent birthday. Samples were weighted by gender, age, ethnicity, and Census region based on the most recent US Census data. Survey researchers at NSON Opinion Strategy, Somerset Guild, in collaboration with the Reason Foundation developed the questionnaire. The survey contained 47 questions, including categorical, scale, and open-ended.

View [full methodology](#)