



REASON-RUPE
Public Opinion Survey

FALL 2011 QUESTIONNAIRE

Hello. This is _____ calling from NSON Opinion Strategy. We're talking with people in your area today about some issues facing the country. We are not trying to sell anything, your answers are completely confidential, and we would really appreciate your cooperation.

Gender (*BY OBSERVATION*)

- Male
- Female

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
- 30 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 or Older

General

How would you rate the job performance of President Obama? Would you say you approve or disapprove of his performance? (Rotate APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat?

- Strongly Approve
- Approve Somewhat
- Disapprove Somewhat
- Strongly Disapprove

How would you rate the job performance of Congress? Would you say you approve or disapprove of Congress's job performance? (Rotate APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat?

- Strongly Approve
- Approve Somewhat
- Disapprove Somewhat
- Strongly Disapprove

OPEN - In just one or two words, what would you say is the biggest problem facing Americans today?

Debt and Spending

OPEN - Please name a few of the things that you think the federal government spends the most money on.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree 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." (ROTATE AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat?

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget? (ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE) Do you (favor/oppose) strongly or somewhat?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

Which of the following options comes closest to your view about the best way to reduce the national debt? (ROTATE A-E and E-A only, keep order within)

- A. Increase taxes without decreasing spending
- B. Mainly increase Taxes with some decrease in spending
- C. Equal Emphasis on both Raising Taxes and Lowering Spending
- D. Mainly decrease Spending with some increase in taxes
- E. Decrease spending without increasing taxes

Do you believe reducing government spending will mostly help, mostly harm, or have no impact on the economy? (ROTATE)

- Mostly Help
- Mostly Harm
- No Impact

To reduce federal spending, would you favor or oppose closing the U.S. Postal Service and allowing people to use private firms such as FedEx or UPS to deliver all mail and packages? (ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE) Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

If the federal government raised taxes, do you believe they would use that money to reduce the deficit or do you believe they would spend that money on new programs instead? (ROTATE)

- Reduce Deficit
- Spend on new programs

Do you think the federal government should increase taxes on the wealthy?

- Yes
- No

{IF YES} *OPEN*- What household income would you use to define someone who is wealthy and thus should pay higher taxes? (*For the typical household*)

Do you expect your taxes to increase, decrease, or stay the same over the next five years? (ROTATE INCREASE/DECREASE/STAY SAME) Do you expect it to (increase/decrease) a lot or a little?

- Increase a Lot
- Increase a Little
- Stay the same
- Decrease a Little
- Decrease a Lot

Entitlements

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

“People like me should be primarily responsible for saving enough money to meet basic expenses in retirement”; OR, “People like me should primarily expect help from the government to meet basic expenses in retirement” (ROTATE)

- People like me should be primarily responsible for saving enough money to meet basic expenses in retirement

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

- People like me should primarily expect help from the government to meet basic expenses in retirement

“People like me should be primarily responsible for saving enough money to purchase health insurance in retirement”; OR, “People like me should primarily expect help from the government to pay for health insurance in retirement”. (ROTATE)

- People like me should be primarily responsible for saving enough money to purchase health insurance in retirement
- People like me should primarily expect help from the government to pay for health insurance in retirement

Who do you believe should receive Social Security benefits? “All who have paid into the system”; OR, “Only those in financial need”? (ROTATE)

- All who have paid into the system
- Only those in financial need

Who do you believe should receive Medicare benefits? “All who have paid into the system”; OR, “Only those in financial need”? (ROTATE)

- All who have paid into the system
- Only those in financial need

A plan has been proposed that would allow workers to opt out of Social Security, meaning they could choose to not pay Social Security taxes and not receive Social Security benefits. Would you favor or oppose allowing workers to opt out of Social Security and rely on their own private retirement savings? (ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE) Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

Would you favor or oppose a similar plan that would allow workers to opt out of Medicare? (ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE) Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

Would you be willing to have your current or future Social Security benefits reduced as part of a plan to balance the federal budget or ensure the Social Security program remains in place for future retirees?

- Yes

- No

{If NO} Would you be more willing to accept reductions in your current or future Social Security benefits if you were still guaranteed to receive at least the amount of money that you have contributed into the system?

- Yes
- No

Would you be willing to have your current or future Medicare benefits reduced as part of a plan to balance the federal budget or ensure Medicare remains in place for future retirees?

- Yes
- No

{If NO} Would you be more willing to accept a reduction in your current or future Medicare benefits if you were still guaranteed to receive at least the amount you have contributed into the system?

- Yes
- No

Americans can currently retire with full Social Security benefits at the age of 65. Do you think the retirement age should be raised?

- Yes
- No

OPEN – What do you think the Social Security retirement age should be?

Do you currently receive Social Security benefits?

- Yes
- No

{IF YES} Do you expect to get back the money you and your employer paid into the Social Security system?

- Yes
- No

{IF NO} Do you expect to get less or more money than what you and your employer paid into the Social Security system? (ROTATE LESS/MORE)

- Less
- More

{IF NO} Do you expect to receive ANY Social Security benefits when you retire?

- Yes
- No

Do you expect to get back at least the money you and your employer have paid into the Social Security system?

- Yes
- No

Do you expect to get less or more money than what you and your employer paid into the Social Security system? (ROTATE LESS/MORE)

- Less
- More

Do you currently receive Medicare benefits?

- Yes
- No

{IF YES} Do you expect to receive benefits worth the amount of money that you and your employer have paid into the system on your behalf?

- Yes
- No

{IF NO} Do you expect to get less or more money than what you and your employer paid into the system? (ROTATE LESS/MORE)

- Less
- More

{IF NO} If NO: Do you expect to receive ANY Medicare benefits when you retire?

- Yes
- No

{IF YES} Do you expect to receive benefits worth at least the amount of money that you and your employer have paid into the system on your behalf?

- Yes
- No

{IF NO} Do you expect to get less or more money than what you and your employer paid into the system? (ROTATE LESS/MORE)

- Less
- More

Tea Party

The Congressional Tea Party Caucus has opposed any bill that would increase federal tax revenues; do you favor or oppose their approach? (ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE) Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

Do you think the Tea Party has had a positive or negative impact on the way Washington, DC works? (ROTATE POSITIVE/NEGATIVE/NO IMPACT)

- Positive impact
- Negative impact
- *No impact (if volunteered)*

If the Tea Party ran its own candidate against President Obama and the Republican nominee in the 2012 presidential election, would you consider voting for him or her?

- Yes
- No

Some people believe the Tea Party movement is primarily about cutting spending and limiting government; others believe that social issues, such as abortion, gay marriage, and immigration are equally important to the Tea Party. Which do you think is more accurate?

- Cutting Spending
- Social Issues

9/11 Anniversary and War on Terror

As you may know, September 11th will mark the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The Department of Homeland Security was created shortly after 9/11 to coordinate the government's anti-terrorism efforts. How confident are you that the Department of Homeland Security will prevent another terrorist attack on US soil? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, slightly confident, or not at all confident?

- Very Confident
- Somewhat Confident
- Slightly Confident
- Not at all Confident

The Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, was created to handle airport security after the 9/11 attacks. *OPEN* –What word best describes your view of the TSA?

Do you think the TSA has made air travel safer?

- Yes
- No

Are you confident that the TSA would catch a terrorist trying to board an airplane at a US airport?

- Yes
- No

Would you favor or oppose replacing TSA airport security screeners with screeners from private companies working under government supervision? (ROTATE FAVOR/OPPOSE) Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

Thinking about the increased security measures that have been introduced by federal, state, and local governments since 9/11, I am going to read you several statements. For each statement, please tell me if you agree or disagree with that particular statement: (ROTATE AGREE/DISAGREE)

- “We are safer now” Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat?
 - Agree Strongly
 - Agree Somewhat
 - Disagree Somewhat
 - Disagree Strongly
- “We have less personal freedom now” Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat?
 - Agree Strongly
 - Agree Somewhat
 - Disagree Somewhat
 - Disagree Strongly
- “We have less privacy now” Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat?
 - Agree Strongly
 - Agree Somewhat
 - Disagree Somewhat
 - Disagree Strongly

- “Today’s security measures may be inconvenient, but they are generally worth it” Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat?
 - Agree Strongly
 - Agree Somewhat
 - Disagree Somewhat
 - Disagree Strongly

- “We have given up too much freedom and privacy in the name of security” Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat?
 - Agree Strongly
 - Agree Somewhat
 - Disagree Somewhat
 - Disagree Strongly

About how many air trips, if any, have you taken on a commercial airliner in the past twelve months -- counting each round trip as one trip? [OPEN]

Now that Osama bin Laden is dead, is the war on terror over?

- Yes
- No

Today, do you feel that the United States uses its military force in foreign conflicts...too often, not often enough, or the right amount? (ROTATE TOO OFTEN/NOT OFTEN ENOUGH/RIGHT AMOUNT)

- Too often
- Not often enough
- The right amount

The United States is expected to have troops in Afghanistan until the end of 2014. Will keeping troops in Afghanistan for the next few years make the United States...more safe, less safe, or make no difference? (ROTATE MORE SAFE/LESS SAFE/NO DIFFERENCE)

- More safe
- Less safe
- Makes no difference

Overall, would you say the war in Iraq has been worth it or not worth it for the United States? (ROTATE WORTH IT/NOT WORTH IT)

- Worth It
- Not Worth It

Other

I would like to read you two statements about the current housing market and ask which one you agree with more...(ROTATE STATEMENT A/STATEMENT B)

“Statement A: The troubled housing market is the result of a lack of government oversight. Without proper government regulation, banks and lenders misled homebuyers into home mortgages they did not understand and could not afford.”

OR

“Statement B: The troubled housing market is the result of misguided government regulations, incentives, and subsidies. These regulations inflated housing prices and shielded lenders and borrowers from the consequences of their risky choices.”

- Statement A
- Statement B

Election Questions

As you may know, President Obama has announced that he is running for re-election in 2012. Would you say you will definitely vote for him, you will consider voting for him, or you definitely will not vote for him? {ROTATE 1-3, then 3-1}

- Definitely vote for him
- Consider voting for him
- Definitely not vote for him

OPEN: If you could choose any American, who would you like to see run for president in 2012?

Are you registered to vote?

- Yes
- No

In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what? (ROTATE REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRAT, INDEPENDENT)

- Democratic
- Republican
- Independent/no party
- Some other party (*SPECIFY*) (*OPEN*)

{If INDEPENDENT} Do you think of yourself as CLOSER to the Republican Party, Democratic Party, or some other party? {If SOME OTHER PARTY} Which party?

1. Closer to Republican Party
2. Closer to Democratic Party
3. Some other party
4. Neither (Totally Independent)

{If Republican OR Independent AND Closer to Republican Party}

If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor? (ROTATE)

- Mitt Romney
- Ron Paul
- Tim Pawlenty
- Michele Bachmann
- Herman Cain
- Newt Gingrich
- Jon Huntsman
- Rick Santorum
- Gary Johnson
- Sarah Palin
- Rick Perry
- Rudy Giuliani

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Generally speaking, would you support or oppose an independent or third party candidate who described him or herself as “conservative on economic issues” *and* “liberal on social issues”? (ROTATE SUPPORT/OPPOSE) (ROTATE CONSERVATIVE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES/LIBERAL ON SOCIAL ISSUES) Do you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat?

- Support Strongly
- Support Somewhat
- Oppose Somewhat
- Oppose Strongly

Values

I am going to read you two statements. After I read both statements, please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion. You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your own views:

Some people say that “people get ahead by their own hard work”; others say “that lucky breaks or help from other people are more important”. Which do you think is more important? (ROTATE)

- Hard work is most important; or,
- Luck or help from other people is most important

Some people say that “people generally get rich at the expense of others”; others say “that wealth can grow so there’s enough for everyone”. Which better describes your own views? (ROTATE)

- People generally get rich at the expense of others; or,
- Wealth can grow so there’s enough for everyone

If you had to choose only one of these two values to teach your kids, which would it be? “To work hard and be self-reliant”; OR, “to learn how to share with others” (ROTATE)

- To work hard and be self-reliant; or,
- To learn how to share with others
- *Refuse to choose (Prompt respondent to pick)*

Libertarian Question Battery

I am going to read you two statements. After I read both statements, please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion. You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your own views:

“The less government the better”; OR, “there are more things that government should be doing”. (ROTATE)

- The less government, the better
- There are more things that government should be doing

“The government should be doing more to regulate businesses”; OR, “Too often, government regulation of businesses does more harm than good”. (ROTATE)

- The government should be doing more to regulate businesses
- Too often, government regulation of businesses does more harm than good

“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 government involvement”. (ROTATE)

- We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems
- People would be better able to handle today’s problems within a free market with less government involvement

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
- Government should not promote any particular set of values

Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as...conservative, moderate, liberal, libertarian, progressive, or something else? {ROTATE everything but "something else"}

- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Libertarian
- Progressive
- Something Else

Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement or not? {If NO} Did you ever consider yourself in the past to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

- Current Supporter
- Past Supporter
- Not a supporter

Demographics

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

Which of the following racial or ethnic groups best describes you? {MOVE UP FRONT}

- White
- African-American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian
- Native American
- Something Else

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

- Less than \$25,000 per year
- More than \$25,000 but less than \$50,000
- More than \$50,000 but less than \$75,000
- More than \$75,000 but less than \$100,000
- More than \$100,000 but less than \$200,000
- \$200,000 or More

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than High School Graduate
- High School Graduate (*GED*)
- Some College/Trade School (*Associates, No 4-Year Degree, Technical*)
- College Graduate (*Bachelor's*)
- Post Graduate (*Study/Degree*)

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- Employed Full-Time
- Employed Part-Time
- Small Business Owner (*Self-Employed*)
- Taking Care of Home and Family (*Homemaker*)
- Retired
- Student
- Unemployed

{If FULL OR PART TIME} 62a. Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government?

- Yes
- No

{If RETIRED} 62b. Before retiring, did you primarily work as a public sector or private sector employee?

- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- (*Both if they volunteer*) (*DO NOT READ ALOUD*)
- Did not work outside the home

What is your marital status?

- Married
- Live with a partner
- Single - Never Married
- Divorced or Separated
- Widowed

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

- Yes
- No

What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or no religion? (ROTATE all except Other and No Religion)

- Protestant (*Christian*)
- Catholic
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other (SPECIFY)
- No Religion

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

- Once a Week (*or more*)
- A few times a month
- A few times a year
- Never

This is the conclusion of our survey. We thank you for your participation.