



REASON-RUPE Public Opinion Survey

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](http://reason.com/reason-rupe-poll-methodology).

The poll questionnaire, crosstabs, and analysis can be found at 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. 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 30%
 - Should not 68%
 - Don't Know/Refused (Vol.) 2%
 - 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%

† Question 40 combines both respondents who oppose allowing 3-D printers to be used at home and those who oppose allowing people to print their own guns/gun parts. In sum 68 percent think printing 3-D gun parts at home should not be allowed.