



REASON-RUPE

Public Opinion Survey

SEPTEMBER 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS

RELEASED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

The Reason-Rupe September 2013 Poll interviewed 1,013 adults on both mobile (509) and landline (504) phones, including 262 respondents without landlines from September 4–8, 2013 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia using live telephone interviews. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7%. 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. Don't know/Refused responses are voluntary. Due to rounding, accumulated responses may not total 100%. 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

1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?
 - Right direction 28%
 - Wrong direction..... 61%
 - Neither (VOL.)..... 7%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
 - Approve 43%
 - Disapprove..... 51%
 - DK/Refused..... 6%
 - Total..... 100%

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?
 - Approve 35%
 - Disapprove..... 58%
 - DK/Refused..... 7%
 - Total..... 100%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?
 - Approve 22%
 - Disapprove..... 72%
 - DK/Refused..... 7%
 - Total..... 100%

5. In just a few words, what do you want Congress to do differently? (ASKED IF DISAPPROVE OF CONGRESS) (OPEN-END)
 - Answer given 93%
 - None/Nothing (VOL.) 4%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

6. For every dollar you pay in federal taxes, about how many cents do you think are wasted by the government? (OPEN-END; RANGE 0 TO 100)
 - MEAN.....\$0.60
 - MEDIAN\$0.60
 - DK/Refused..... 9%
 - Total..... 100%

7. In your view, does the federal government spend too much money, too little money, or about the right amount of money?
 - Too much 76%
 - Too little..... 7%
 - Right amount..... 11%
 - DK/Refused..... 6%
 - Total..... 100%

8. It is estimated that the federal government will spend about \$750 billion more than it collects in tax revenue this year. Do you think Congress should...
 - Balance the budget immediately..... 40%
 - Balance the budget over 5 years 32%
 - Balance the budget over 10 years 16%
 - Or not worry about balancing the budget? 7%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total..... 100%

9. What percentage of federal spending, from zero to 100 percent, would you cut across the board to help balance the budget? (OPEN-END; RANGE 0 TO 100)
 - MEAN..... 37%
 - MEDIAN 30%
 - DK/Refused..... 18%
 - Total..... 100%

10. The federal government is expected to hit its debt limit – which is the legal limit on how much the federal government can borrow to pay its bills – in the next few months. In general, do you favor or oppose raising the debt ceiling?
- Favor 24%
 - Oppose 70%
 - DK/Refused 6%
 - Total 100%

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 11, 12 AND 13

11. Would you be willing to support raising the debt ceiling if equal amounts of budget cuts are made, or not?
- Yes, willing to support 45%
 - No, not willing to support 46%
 - DK/Refused 9%
 - Total 100%

12. Would you be willing to support raising the debt ceiling if funding for Obamacare is cut off, or not?
- Yes, willing to support 35%
 - No, not willing to support 56%
 - DK/Refused 10%
 - Total 100%

13. Would you be willing to support raising the debt ceiling if not raising the debt ceiling means the U.S. defaults on its debt, or not?
- Yes, willing to support 35%
 - No, not willing to support 55%
 - DK/Refused 10%
 - Total 100%

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 14, 15, 16 AND 17

14. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree.

Congress passes too many laws.

- NET AGREE 56%
- NET DISAGREE 40%
- Completely agree 27%
- Mostly agree 29%
- Mostly disagree 27%
- Completely disagree 13%
- DK/Refused 4%
- Total 100%

15. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree. Congress passes too few laws.

- NET AGREE 34%
- NET DISAGREE 62%
- Completely agree 11%
- Mostly agree 23%
- Mostly disagree 36%
- Completely disagree 26%
- DK/Refused 4%
- Total 100%

16. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree.

Congress passes the wrong kinds of laws.

- NET AGREE 67%
- NET DISAGREE 28%
- Completely agree 30%
- Mostly agree 37%
- Mostly disagree 20%
- Completely disagree 8%
- DK/Refused 5%
- Total 100%

17. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree.

Partisan gridlock keeps Congress from getting legislation passed.

- NET AGREE..... 69%
- NET DISAGREE 19%

- Completely agree 34%
- Mostly agree..... 35%
- Mostly disagree 12%
- Completely disagree..... 7%
- DK/Refused..... 12%
- Total..... 100%

18. Which of the following two statements come closest to your own opinion?

- I would rather members of Congress work together and compromise more, even if I do not like the resulting laws..... 67%
- I would rather have partisan gridlock blocking legislation in Congress than for them to pass laws I do not like 28%
- Neither (VOL.)..... 2%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

19. As you may know, members of Congress disagree about how much the federal government should spend. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion about why they disagree?

- Because the Americans they represent disagree about how much the federal government should spend..... 28%
- Because members of Congress are out of touch with their constituents on this issue 63%
- Neither/Other (VOL.)..... 4%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

20. Would you describe those members of Congress who disagree with you on how much money the federal government should spend as generally moderate or extreme?

- Moderate..... 28%
- Extreme 64%
- Neither/Both (VOL.) 3%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

21. Turning to health care...so far, do you think the implementation of the federal health care law, known as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, is going very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

- Very well..... 10%
- Somewhat well 24%
- Not too well..... 21%
- Not well at all..... 41%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

22. As you may know, the federal health care law requires nearly all Americans to obtain health insurance by January 1, 2014. Would you favor or oppose delaying this requirement for one year?

- Favor 60%
- Oppose 35%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

23. On another subject...As you may know, the city of Detroit recently filed for bankruptcy. In your opinion, should federal taxpayer money be used to bail out Detroit or not?

- Yes 31%
- No 65%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

READ TO ALL: Some state and local governments are finding they do not have enough money to fund government employee retirement benefits, including pensions and health care benefits.

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 24, 25, 26 AND 27

24. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits?

- Raising property, sales, or income taxes.
- Favor 26%
 - Oppose 73%
 - DK/Refused..... 1%
 - Total..... 100%

25. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits?

- Reducing spending on things like education, health care or infrastructure.
- Favor 25%
 - Oppose 70%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total..... 100%

26. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits?

- Reducing the benefits government employees receive.
- Favor 63%
 - Oppose 32%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total..... 100%

27. If your city or state faced this situation, would you favor or oppose this as a way to help fund government employee retirement benefits?

- Requiring government employees to contribute more towards their own pensions and benefits.
- Favor 78%
 - Oppose 20%
 - DK/Refused..... 2%
 - Total..... 100%

28. Government employees often receive guaranteed pension-style payments during retirement, while private sector workers will typically get payments from 401(k)-style accounts based on the amount they saved for retirement. For new government employees who have not been promised pension benefits, would you favor or oppose shifting them from guaranteed pensions to 401(k)-style accounts?

- Favor 70%
- Oppose 22%
- DK/Refused..... 7%
- Total..... 100%

29. Next...In terms of sharing information with the public, President Obama has said, "This is the most transparent administration in history." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Agree 33%
- Disagree..... 63%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

30. When it comes to improving transparency and making government more open, would you say the Obama administration has exceeded your expectations, met your expectations, or not lived up to your expectations?

- Exceeded your expectations 7%
- Met your expectations 30%
- Not lived up to your expectations 61%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

31. Some say the National Security Agency's, or NSA's program to collect phone call records and Internet data on millions of Americans is (needed to fight terrorism), others say it's (a violation of American's privacy). Which comes closer to your own view?

- Needed to fight terrorism..... 33%
- A violation of Americans' privacy 55%
- Both (VOL.) 8%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

32. Would you say learning about the N-S-A's surveillance program has (increased your trust in the federal government), (decreased your trust in the federal government), or has it not made much difference either way?

- Increased your trust 8%
- Decreased your trust 34%
- Not much difference either way 55%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

33. How likely do you think it is that you may have broken a federal law or regulation without knowing it? Would you say very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

- Very likely 12%
- Somewhat likely 17%
- Not too likely 23%
- Not at all likely 46%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

34. Most of the recent information about NSA surveillance activities has come from former government contractor Edward Snowden. Would you say that Snowden is a (patriot for letting the public know about the government's surveillance of Americans), or that he is a (traitor for leaking government secrets to the media, whose reports are seen by America's enemies)?

- Patriot for letting the people know 35%
- Traitor for leaking government secrets... 39%
- Mixed opinion (VOL.)..... 16%
- DK/Refused..... 9%
- Total..... 100%

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 35, 36 AND 37

35. Do you think the NSA should be allowed or NOT allowed to share the secret data it collects on millions of Americans with the Drug Enforcement Administration, or the DEA, for drug investigations that do NOT involve terrorism?

- Should be allowed 45%
- Should not be allowed..... 45%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 5%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

36. Do you think the NSA should be allowed or NOT allowed to share the secret data it collects on millions of Americans with law enforcement agencies searching for missing children, not related to terrorism?

- Should be allowed 68%
- Should not be allowed..... 25%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

37. Do you think the NSA should be allowed or NOT allowed to share the secret data it collects on millions of Americans with the IRS for tax investigations that do NOT involve terrorism?

- Should be allowed 28%
- Should not be allowed..... 65%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 AND 43

38. Do you trust Facebook a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some 11%
- NET Only a little/Not at all 75%
- A lot 2%
- Some 8%
- Only a little 15%
- Not at all 61%
- Not applicable (VOL.) 12%
- DK/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

39. Do you trust Google a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some 22%
- NET Only a little/Not at all 68%
- A lot 7%
- Some 15%
- Only a little 19%
- Not at all 48%
- Not applicable (VOL.) 7%
- DK/Refused 3%
- Total 100%

40. Do you trust your cell phone service provider a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some 32%
- NET Only a little/Not at all 63%
- A lot 11%
- Some 21%
- Only a little 22%
- Not at all 41%
- Not applicable (VOL.) 3%
- DK/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

41. Do you trust your internet service provider a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some 29%
- NET Only a little/Not at all 61%
- A lot 9%
- Some 20%
- Only a little 22%
- Not at all 39%
- Not applicable (VOL.) 8%
- DK/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

42. Do you trust the Internal Revenue Service or IRS a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some 33%
- NET Only a little/Not at all 64%
- A lot 11%
- Some 22%
- Only a little 18%
- Not at all 45%
- Not applicable (VOL.) 1%
- DK/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

43. Do you trust the National Security Agency or NSA a lot, some, only a little, or not at all to protect your privacy and personal information?

- NET A lot/Some 37%
- NET Only a little/Not at all 59%
- A lot 11%
- Some 26%
- Only a little 19%
- Not at all 40%
- Not applicable (VOL.) 1%
- DK/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

44. Turning to other issues...Do you think it is or is NOT the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes?

- Is the responsibility 34%
- Is not the responsibility 61%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

45. In your opinion, do most poor people in this country have (a very good chance) of escaping from poverty, or (very little chance) of escaping poverty?

- Good chance..... 35%
- Little chance 59%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

46. Please tell me which of these statements you agree with more...

- Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard 63%
- Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people.... 34%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

47. Please tell me which of these statements you agree with more...or does it not make much difference either way?

- People generally get rich at the expense of others 37%
- Wealth can grow so there's enough for everyone..... 27%
- Not much difference either way 33%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

READ TO ALL: Turning to Syria, where the government is believed to have used chemical weapons to kill civilians...

48. Do you think it is (wise) or (unwise) for the United States to launch airstrikes on Syria without the support of the United Nations or Great Britain?

- Wise..... 17%
- Unwise..... 74%
- DK/Refused..... 8%
- Total..... 100%

49. When it comes to launching U.S. military action around the world, would you say the political establishment in Washington D.C. is (more likely to favor military action than you are), (less likely to favor military action than you are), or about the same?

- More likely..... 47%
- Less likely..... 17%
- About the same 30%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

50. Do you think U.S. airstrikes against Syria are necessary or NOT necessary to protect America's credibility and national security?

- Necessary 26%
- Not necessary..... 64%
- DK/Refused..... 9%
- Total..... 100%

51. 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?

- Better..... 32%
- Worse 32%
- About the same 32%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

52. As you may know, some Republicans in Congress such as Senator Rand Paul generally oppose U.S. military intervention overseas, including military action against Syria. Does this make you view the Republican Party (more favorably), (less favorably), or make no difference either way?
- More favorably 21%
 - Less favorably 16%
 - No difference either way 60%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total 100%

ROTATE QUESTIONS 53 AND 54

53. Which comes closer to your own opinion?
- “The less government the better” 51%
 - “There are more things government should be doing” 44%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total 100%

54. Which comes closer to your own opinion?
- “We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems” ... 43%
 - “People would be better able to handle today’s problems within a free market with less government involvement” 51%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total 100%

55. 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?
- Should promote traditional values 47%
 - Should not favor any particular set of values..... 46%
 - DK/Refused..... 6%
 - Total 100%

56. GENDER
- Male 50%
 - Female 50%
 - Total 100%

57. AGE
- 18-24 13%
 - 25-34 14%
 - 35-44 17%
 - 45-54 19%
 - 55-64 16%
 - 65+ 16%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total 100%

58. Race/Ethnicity
- White 65%
 - African-American..... 12%
 - Hispanic 13%
 - Other 7%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total 100%

59. Which of the following BEST describes your current employment status?
- Employed Full-Time 41%
 - Employed Part-Time 10%
 - Small business owner or self-employed ... 6%
 - Taking care of home and family 6%
 - Retired 19%
 - Student 6%
 - Unemployed 5%
 - Disabled (VOL.) 3%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total 100%

60. Are you employed by local, state, or the federal government? (ASK IF EMPLOYED FULL-OR PART-TIME)
- Public Sector Worker 18%
 - Private Sector Worker..... 79%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

61. Which of these statements best describes you?
- Are you ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that you are registered to vote at your current address 79%
 - Are you PROBABLY registered, but there is a chance your registration has lapsed, OR..... 5%
 - Are you NOT registered to vote at your current address? 13%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

62. In politics today, do you consider yourself a:
- Republican 23%
 - Democrat..... 29%
 - Independent 38%
 - Or what? 7%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

63. Party Identification (DERIVED, Independent Leaners Sorted)
- Democrat..... 29%
 - Independent-Lean Democrat..... 14%
 - Independent 16%
 - Independent-Lean Republican..... 15%
 - Republican 23%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total..... 100%

64. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as:
- Conservative 30%
 - Moderate..... 22%
 - Liberal..... 16%
 - Libertarian 8%
 - Progressive 5%
 - Or something else?..... 13%
 - DK/Refused..... 6%
 - Total..... 100%

65. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?
- Supporter 27%
 - Not a supporter 60%
 - DK/Refused..... 13%
 - Total..... 100%

66. 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..... 10%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

67. What is your household income category?
- <\$30,000..... 23%
 - \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 16%
 - \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 16%
 - \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 11%
 - \$75,000 but less than \$90,000 7%
 - \$90,000 but less than \$110,000 6%
 - \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 5%
 - \$150,000 but less than \$250,000 3%
 - \$250,000 or more..... 3%
 - DK/Refused..... 11%
 - Total..... 100%

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

- <\$30,000..... 7%
- \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 15%
- \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 12%
- \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 8%
- \$75,000 but less than \$90,000 6%
- \$90,000 but less than \$110,000 9%
- \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 4%
- \$150,000 but less than \$250,000 5%
- \$250,000 or more..... 8%
- DK/Refused..... 25%
- Total..... 100%

69. (Compared to Current Income for under 55) Thinking about 10 years from now, what do you expect your annual household income to approximately be?

- Expect lower income 14%
- Expect same income..... 20%
- Expect higher income 65%
- DK/Refused..... 25%
- Total..... 100%

70. Region

- Northeast..... 18%
- Midwest..... 22%
- South 37%
- West 23%
- Total..... 100%

71. Community Type

- Rural 18%
- Suburban 48%
- Urban..... 33%
- Total..... 100%

72. In just a few words, what do you want Congress to do differently? (ASKED IF DISAPPROVE OF CONGRESS) (OPEN-END; FIRST MENTION SHOWN)

- Do their jobs/get more things done 28%
- Work together/cooperate more/show less partisanship 20%
- Listen to the people/not special interests..... 11%
- Other 10%
- Work on the economy (jobs, taxes)..... 9%
- Show more support for President Obama ... 4%
- Elect new Congress members/clear out current members/support term limits.... 4%
- Uphold/follow the constitution 3%
- End the war in Syria/Stay out/stop attacking other countries..... 3%
- Healthcare (Medicare, ObamaCare)..... 2%
- Stand up against President Obama 2%
- Reduce/stop government spending 1%
- Balance/regulate the budget..... 1%
- None/Nothing (VOL.)..... 4%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%