



REASON-RUPE

Public Opinion Survey

DECEMBER 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS

RELEASED: DECEMBER 12, 2013

The Reason-Rupe December 2013 Poll interviewed 1,011 adults on both mobile (506) and landline (505) phones, including 277 respondents without landlines from December 4–8, 2013 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia using live telephone interviews. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7%. For Form A respondents (n=494), the margin of error is +/- 5.3%. For Form B respondents (n=517), the margin of error is +/- 5.1%. 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/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?
 - Right direction 35%
 - Wrong direction..... 56%
 - Neither (VOL.)..... 4%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total..... 100%

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
 - Approve 47%
 - Disapprove..... 50%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total..... 100%

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling healthcare?
 - Approve 38%
 - Disapprove..... 57%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total..... 100%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?
 - Approve 20%
 - Disapprove..... 74%
 - DK/Refused..... 6%
 - Total..... 100%

5. In just a few words, what would you say is the biggest problem facing the country today? (ASKED OF FORM A) (OPEN-END)
 - Jobs/Wages..... 16%
 - Congressional Gridlock/
Societal Disunity 11%
 - Economy/Rising Costs..... 11%
 - Big Government
(Taxes, Spending, Overreach) 10%
 - Obama/Obama Administration 9%
 - Health Care..... 9%
 - Socioeconomic/Class Issues 7%
 - Politicians 4%
 - Moral/Religious Issues..... 3%
 - Education..... 3%
 - International Affairs..... 3%
 - Republicans/Tea Partiers 2%
 - Immigration 2%
 - Other 4%
 - DK (Don't Know) 6%
 - Total..... 100%

6. After next year's congressional elections, would you prefer the Democrats have a majority in Congress, the Republicans have a majority in Congress, or neither party have a majority in Congress?
 - Democrats 33%
 - Republicans 27%
 - Neither party 36%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total..... 100%

READ TO ALL: Now I am going to ask you some questions about the federal health care law, also known as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare...

7. Given what you know about the federal health care law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it? [GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Is that a very or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?]
- Total Favorable 41%
 - Total Unfavorable 53%
 - Very favorable..... 15%
 - Somewhat favorable..... 26%
 - Somewhat unfavorable..... 21%
 - Very unfavorable 31%
 - DK/Refused..... 7%
 - Total..... 100%
8. Next, which of the following best describes your views about the federal health care law?
- You liked the law when it passed, and you still like it..... 26%
 - You liked the law when it passed, but like it less now 18%
 - You disliked the law when it passed, but like it more now 7%
 - You disliked the law when it passed, and you still dislike it 45%
 - No views 4%
 - DK/Refused..... 1%
 - Total..... 100%
9. What one word would you use to describe the implementation of the federal health care law so far? (ASKED OF FORM B) (OPEN-END)
- Positive 17%
 - Negative..... 65%
 - DK/Neutral..... 18%
 - Total..... 100%

10. Has implementation of the health care law thus far increased or decreased your confidence in government’s ability to solve problems, or has it not made much difference either way?
- Increased 11%
 - Decreased..... 47%
 - Not much difference either way 41%
 - DK/Refused..... 1%
 - Total..... 100%
11. If you had to choose, would you prefer the health care system designed by the 2010 federal health care law or the system that was in place prior to passage of the 2010 federal health care law?
- The health care system designed by the 2010 federal health care law 34%
 - System that was in place prior to passage of the 2010 federal health care law.... 55%
 - DK/Refused..... 11%
 - Total..... 100%
12. Whatever your overall view of the new federal health care law, do you favor or oppose provisions in the law that prohibit health insurance companies from denying coverage or charging some customers higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?
- Favor 40%
 - Oppose 53%
 - DK/Refused..... 7%
 - Total..... 100%

13. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Pay higher taxes] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?

(ASKED OF FORM A)

- Acceptable 24%
- Unacceptable..... 71%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 1%
- DK/Refused..... 1%
- Total 100%

14. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Pay higher health insurance premiums] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- Acceptable 16%
- Unacceptable..... 78%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 2%
- DK/Refused..... 1%
- Total 100%

15. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Switch doctors] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?

(ASKED OF FORM B)

- Acceptable 47%
- Unacceptable..... 46%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 5%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 1%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total 100%

16. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- Acceptable 22%
- Unacceptable..... 73%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... *
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total 100%

17. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Have limited access to top quality doctors and health care providers] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

- Acceptable 22%
- Unacceptable..... 76%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 1%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... *
- DK/Refused..... 1%
- Total 100%

18. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a primary care doctor for a check-up] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?

(ASKED OF FORM A)

- Acceptable 21%
- Unacceptable..... 74%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 2%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 1%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total 100%

19. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a specialist or surgeon for a necessary procedure] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- Acceptable..... 16%
- Unacceptable..... 79%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 1%
- DK/Refused..... 1%
- Total..... 100%

20. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Have fewer medical tests and treatments covered by your health insurance policy] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- Acceptable..... 25%
- Unacceptable..... 70%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 2%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 1%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

21. Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [Receive fewer medical tests and treatments] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

- Acceptable..... 24%
- Unacceptable..... 66%
- Depends (VOL.)..... 4%
- Not applicable (VOL.)..... 1%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS 13–21

Would you find it acceptable or unacceptable for you to [ITEM] so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions?

	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a specialist or surgeon for a necessary procedure	16%	79%
Pay higher health insurance premiums	16%	78%
Have limited access to top quality doctors and health care providers	22%	76%
Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a primary care doctor for a check-up	21%	74%
Have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals	22%	73%
Pay higher taxes	24%	71%
Have fewer medical tests and treatments covered by your health insurance policy	25%	70%
Receive fewer medical tests and treatments	24%	66%
Switch doctors	47%	46%

22. Of the following things that you said would be unacceptable to you so that health insurance companies can NOT deny you coverage or charge you higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions... which is the MOST unacceptable? (BASED ON MORE THAN ONE "UNACCEPTABLE" ANSWER IN PREVIOUS QUESTION)

ASKED OF FORM A

- Pay higher taxes..... 28%
- Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a primary care doctor for a check-up..... 27%
- Have limited access to top quality doctors and health care providers..... 26%
- Have fewer medical tests and treatments covered by your health insurance policy 13%
- DK/Refused..... 6%

ASKED OF FORM B

- Pay higher health insurance premiums.. 32%
- Wait 2 to 4 weeks longer to see a specialist or surgeon for a necessary procedure 29%
- Receive fewer medical tests and treatments..... 16%
- Have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals 12%
- Switch doctors 6%
- DK/Refused..... 5%

READ TO ALL: Under the health care law, some people say insurance premiums for younger and healthier people are generally going up in order to fund provisions of the law.

23. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it results in health insurance coverage for the uninsured? (ASKED OF FORM A)

- Favor 27%
- Oppose 68%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

24. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it helps pay for older and less healthy people? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- Favor 27%
- Oppose 70%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

25. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it helps pay for health insurance for people with pre-existing conditions? (ASKED OF FORM A)

- Favor 33%
- Oppose 62%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

26. Do you favor or oppose requiring younger, healthier people to pay more for health insurance if it helps pay for expanded coverage for everyone, such as maternity care and mental health care? (ASKED OF FORM B)

- Favor 32%
- Oppose 65%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

27. The federal government has sought to increase health care benefits for everyone by prohibiting low cost health insurance policies that do not cover certain things like routine check-ups, maternity benefits, or mental health care [IF NECESSARY: meaning individuals would have to pay these and other costs out-of-pocket]. Should the government prohibit these policies or should these policies be allowed?

- Prohibit..... 37%
- Allow..... 57%
- DK/Refused..... 7%
- Total..... 100%

28. When it comes to health care, would you say the typical member of Congress understands the health care system and the impact of the health care laws they pass very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

- Total Very/Somewhat Well 25%
- Total Not too/Not at all Well..... 73%
- Very well..... 4%
- Somewhat well 21%
- Not too well..... 25%
- Not at all well..... 48%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

29. To expand health care for low-income Americans, would you rather expand Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income Americans, or would you rather give tax credits to low-income Americans so they could purchase their own private health insurance?

- Expand Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income Americans..... 48%
- Give tax credits to low-income Americans so they could purchase their own private health insurance 44%
- DK/Refused..... 8%
- Total..... 100%

30. Would you favor or oppose replacing the system of employer-based health insurance with a system where individuals purchase private health insurance in a marketplace, similar to how auto, life and homeowners insurance is purchased?

- Favor 48%
- Oppose 44%
- DK/Refused..... 8%
- Total..... 100%

31. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

READ TO ALL: Turning to another topic...

32. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Do you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?

- Favor 72%
- Oppose 26%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

33. Do you think the federal government should set a minimum wage, or not?

- Yes, federal government should set a minimum wage..... 73%
- No, federal government should not set a minimum wage 24%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

34. What do you think the federal minimum wage should be? [ASKED OF THOSE WHO THINK GOVT. SHOULD SET MINIMUM WAGE] [OPEN-END]

- MEAN.....\$15.32
- MEDIAN\$10.00
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

35. Do you think raising the minimum wage would reduce the number of jobs, increase the number of jobs, or have no impact on the number of jobs?

- Reduce the number of jobs 39%
- Increase the number of jobs..... 23%
- Have no impact on the number of jobs 35%
- DK/Refused..... 3%
- Total..... 100%

36. What about if raising the minimum wage caused some employers to lay off workers or hire fewer workers? Would you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage?
- Favor 38%
 - Oppose 57%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total..... 100%

37. Do you view minimum wage jobs as stepping stones to help lower-skilled or younger workers gain skills, or as long-term positions for established workers to support their families?
- Stepping stones to help lower-skilled or younger workers gain skills..... 61%
 - Long-term positions for established workers..... 23%
 - Both (VOL.) 10%
 - Neither (VOL.)..... 3%
 - DK/Refused..... 4%
 - Total..... 100%

38–42. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

43. Do you think the government should prohibit people from [Making a working gun with a 3-D printer that can create a variety of items from plastic], or should the government allow people to do this?
- Prohibit 60%
 - Allow..... 30%
 - DK/Refused..... 10%
 - Total..... 100%

44–50. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

51. Do you think TSA agents at airports should carry guns, or not?
- Yes, should carry guns 59%
 - No, should not carry guns..... 35%
 - Depends (VOL.)..... 4%
 - DK/Refused..... 2%
 - Total..... 100%

52. Do you think tighter restrictions on buying and owning guns would be effective or would not be effective in preventing criminals from obtaining guns?
- Effective 32%
 - Not effective 63%
 - Depends (VOL.)..... 3%
 - DK/Refused..... 1%
 - Total..... 100%

53. Of the following factors that some say might have helped prevent last year’s mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which one do you consider MOST important?
- Better mental health treatment 27%
 - Stricter gun control laws..... 16%
 - Better parenting 22%
 - Having armed school officials or armed guards on site 20%
 - Less violence in media and video games.. 8%
 - Or something else?..... 5%
 - DK/Refused..... 3%
 - Total..... 100%

54–55. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

56. Next...In terms of sharing information with the public, President Obama has said, “This is the most trans-parent administration in history.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Agree 37%
 - Disagree..... 57%
 - DK/Refused..... 6%
 - Total..... 100%

57. Thinking about the proper size and power of the government, would you say you generally agree with President Obama about the proper size and power of the government or do you generally disagree with his views?
- Generally agree 38%
 - Generally disagree..... 52%
 - Sometimes agree/sometimes disagree (VOL)... 4%
 - DK/Refused..... 5%
 - Total..... 100%

58. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 59, 60 AND 61

59. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- “The less government the better” 48%
- “There are more things government should be doing” 48%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

60. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- “We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems” 49%
- “People would be better able to handle today’s problems within a free market with less government involvement” 48%
- DK/Refused..... 4%
- Total..... 100%

61. Which comes closer to your own opinion?

- “Government is primarily a source of good and helps people improve their lives” 41%
- “Government, while necessary for certain functions, is generally a burdensome part of society that impedes the ability of people to improve their lives” 54%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

62. 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 51%
- Should not favor any particular set of values 42%
- DK/Refused..... 7%
- Total..... 100%

63. GENDER

- Male 49%
- Female..... 51%
- Total..... 100%

64. AGE

- 18-24 13%
- 25-34 16%
- 35-44 17%
- 45-54 19%
- 55-64 16%
- 65+..... 17%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

65. Race/Ethnicity

- White 67%
- African-American..... 11%
- Hispanic..... 13%
- Other 7%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

66. Which of the following BEST describes your current employment status?

- Employed Full-Time 40%
- Employed Part-Time 12%
- Small business owner or self-employed... 7%
- Taking care of home and family..... 7%
- Retired 19%
- Student 7%
- Unemployed..... 5%
- Disabled (VOL.) 3%
- DK/Refused..... 1%
- Total..... 100%

67. 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%

68. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

- Married/Living with a partner 62%
- Divorced/Separated/Widowed..... 15%
- Never been married 21%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

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

- Republican 23%
- Democrat..... 34%
- Independent 34%
- Or what? 7%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

70. Party Identification (DERIVED, Independent Leaners Sorted)

- Democrat..... 34%
- Independent-Lean Democrat..... 14%
- Independent 13%
- Independent-Lean Republican..... 14%
- Republican 23%
- DK/Refused..... 2%
- Total..... 100%

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

- Conservative 29%
- Moderate..... 28%
- Liberal..... 17%
- Libertarian 5%
- Progressive 7%
- Or something else? 9%
- DK/Refused..... 5%
- Total..... 100%

72. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

- Supporter 23%
- Not a supporter 69%
- DK/Refused..... 8%
- Total..... 100%

73. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- High school or less..... 41%
- Some college 32%
- College..... 19%
- Post-Grad..... 8%
- DK/Refused..... 1%
- Total..... 100%

74. What is your household income category?

- <\$30,000..... 24%
- \$30,000 but less than \$45,000 16%
- \$45,000 but less than \$60,000 17%
- \$60,000 but less than \$75,000 11%
- \$75,000 but less than \$90,000 8%
- \$90,000 but less than \$110,000 6%
- \$110,000 but less than \$150,000 6%
- \$150,000 but less than \$250,000 3%
- \$250,000 or more..... 2%
- DK/Refused..... 8%
- Total..... 100%

75. Region

- Northeast..... 19%
- Midwest..... 22%
- South 38%
- West 22%
- Total..... 100%

76. Community Type

- Rural 18%
- Suburban 47%
- Urban..... 35%
- Total..... 100%