

FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Deficit Reduction: Focus Mostly on Spending But Keep Taxes in Mix

---

## If No Deal is Struck, Four-in-Ten Say Let the Sequester Happen

*A Pew Research Center/USA TODAY Survey*

---

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE  
PEOPLE & THE PRESS**

**Michael Dimock**

Director

**Carroll Doherty**

Associate Director

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel (202) 419-4350  
Fax (202) 419-4399  
[www.peoplepress.org](http://www.peoplepress.org)

---

# Deficit Reduction: Focus Mostly on Spending But Keep Taxes in Mix

## If No Deal is Struck, Four-in-Ten Say Let the Sequester Happen

After a series of fiscal crises over the past few years, the public is not expressing a particular sense of urgency over the pending March 1 sequester deadline. With little more than a week to go, barely a quarter have heard a lot about the scheduled cuts, while about as many have heard nothing at all.

And if the president and Congress cannot reach a deficit reduction agreement before the deadline, 40% of Americans say it would be better to let the automatic spending cuts go into effect, while 49% say it would be better to delay the cuts. Both Republicans and independents are divided evenly over which approach is better, and even among Democrats, roughly a third favor letting the sequester take effect over any delays.

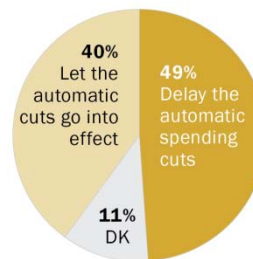
The new survey, conducted Feb. 13-18, 2013 with 1,504 adults nationwide, is the first in a collaboration between the Pew Research Center and USA TODAY. It finds that, as with previous conflicts over the debt ceiling and fiscal cliff, Obama holds the upper hand politically over congressional Republicans. If there is no deficit deal by March 1, 49% say congressional Republicans would be more to blame while just 31% would mostly blame President Obama.

Moreover, 76% say that the president and Congress should focus on a combination of spending cuts and tax increases to reduce the budget deficit. Just 19% agree with the current Republican position that tax increases should be off the table.

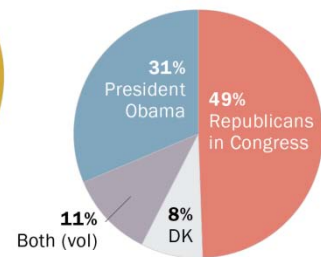
### Assessing Fallout from Sequester

If Obama and Congress can't strike a deficit deal before the March 1 sequester deadline...

What should they do?



Who would you blame?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013.

### Large Majority Views Deficit Legislation as Essential

Essential for president and Congress to act on this year ...	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Major deficit legislation	70	81	65	70
Major immigration legislation	51	53	54	49
Major gun legislation	46	19	71	42
New climate change policies	34	15	47	35

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q7.

And while Obama's 51% job approval rating is down slightly from a post-election high of 55%, it remains well above the 25% approval rating for GOP congressional leaders. The job rating for Democratic leaders is higher (37%), though more disapprove (55%) than approve of their performance.

The poll finds new evidence of the public's concern over the federal budget deficit. Fully 70% say it is essential for the president and Congress to pass major legislation to reduce the federal budget deficit, including wide majorities across party lines. [Last month, the Pew Research Center's annual policy priorities survey](#) found a sharp rise in the percentage rating deficit reduction as a top priority since 2009.

Far fewer say it is essential to act on three other issues that Obama mentioned prominently in his State of the Union address: 51% say it is essential for the president and Congress to act on major immigration legislation; 46% view major gun legislation as essential; just 34% say it is essential to set new federal policies dealing with climate change.

There are wide partisan differences in attitudes about all four issues. This also is the case in views about whether to raise the minimum wage, another proposal Obama raised in his State of the Union.

By a wide margin (71% to 26%), the public favors increasing the minimum wage from its current level of \$7.25 per hour to \$9.00 an hour. But while large majorities of Democrats (87%) and independents (68%) favor raising the minimum wage, Republicans are evenly divided (50% favor, 47% oppose).

Among all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, those who agree with the Tea Party oppose the proposed minimum wage hike by two-to-one (64% to 32%). Those who have no opinion of the Tea Party, or disagree with it, favor increasing the minimum wage by 60% to 36%.

---

### Republicans Divided over Proposed Minimum Wage Hike

<i>Increase minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00 an hour ...</i>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	71	26	3=100
Republican	50	47	3=100
Democrat	87	11	2=100
Independent	68	28	4=100

#### *Among Reps and Rep leaners*

Agree w/Tea Party	32	64	4=100
Disagree/No opinion	60	36	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013.  
Q18a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

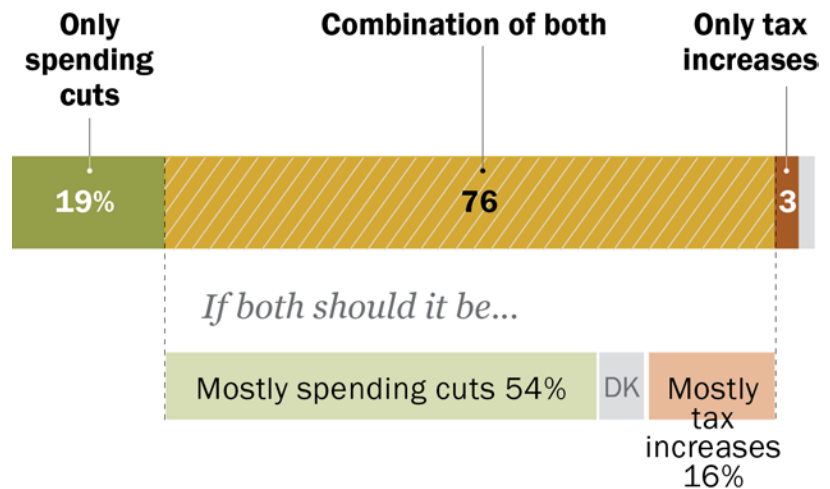
## Most Want Deficit Efforts Focused Largely on Spending Cuts

A substantial majority of Americans (76%) feel that both spending cuts and tax increases should be a part of the next step in tackling the federal budget deficit. But an equally large proportion believes that the greater share should come from spending cuts, even if tax hikes are also considered.

Overall, 19% say the focus of deficit reduction efforts should be *only* on spending cuts; just 3% want to concentrate only on tax increases. About four-in-ten Republicans (42%) favor reducing the deficit with spending cuts alone; that compares with 18% of independents and just 6% of Democrats. Even among Republicans, more favor a combination of spending cuts and tax increases to just spending cuts (56% vs. 42%).

### More Want Deficit Focus on Spending

*To reduce budget deficit, president and Congress should focus on...*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q11-12.

When those who favor a balanced approach to reducing the deficit are asked if the focus should *mostly* be on spending cuts or tax increases, they overwhelmingly say spending cuts. Overall, 73% say efforts by the president and Congress to reduce the deficit should be only or mostly focused on spending cuts while just 19% say the focus should be only or mostly on tax increases.

## Immigration: Plurality Favors Border Security and Path to Citizenship

Nearly half (47%) say the priority for illegal immigration is better border security, stronger law enforcement *and* creating a way for people here illegally to become citizens if they meet certain requirements. Just a quarter (25%) favors an enforcement-only approach while an identical percentage says the focus should only be on a so-called path

to citizenship. The percentage favoring a dual approach to immigration policy has risen modestly since June, from 42% to 47%.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that better border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws should be the bigger priority, while Democrats are more likely to want the focus to be on creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements.

Obama holds a sizable advantage over congressional Republicans on immigration. Half (50%) say that Obama has a better approach to dealing with immigration, compared with 33% who say congressional

Republicans have a better approach. Obama's job approval in handling the nation's immigration policy, in negative territory for most of his presidency, also has improved.

Currently, about as many approve (44%) as disapprove (43%) of Obama's handling of immigration policy; in seven surveys since 2009, far more disapproved than approved. Hispanics, in particular, are much more positive about Obama's job performance on immigration: 63% approve currently, up from just 28% in November 2011.

### Views on Gun Control Unchanged Since Shortly After Newtown

Gun control and climate change are potentially even more divisive political issues. For Democrats, 71% say it is essential that the president and Congress pass major gun legislation this year – that is slightly higher than the number saying major deficit reduction legislation is essential (65%). But just 19% of Republicans place the same emphasis on gun legislation. Nearly half of Democrats (47%) view action on climate change as essential this year, compared with 15% of Republicans.

Americans remain divided over whether it is more important to control gun ownership (50%) or protect the right of Americans to own guns (46%), with no significant change in attitudes in the two months since shortly after the Newtown shootings. Similarly, there

### Nearly Half Give Enforcement, Path to Citizenship Equal Priority

<i>Priority for dealing with illegal immigration in U.S. ...</i>	<b>Feb 2011</b>	<b>Jun 2012</b>	<b>Feb 2013</b>
Better border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws	%	%	%
Creating way for illegal immigrants already in U.S. to become citizens	35	28	25
Both should be equal priorities	21	27	25
None (Vol.)/Don't know	42	42	47
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb 13-18, 2013. Q15. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

**has been no change in public views about banning high capacity clips (53% favor), banning assault weapons (56% favor), or broader background checks (83% favor).**

## SECTION 1: OPINIONS ABOUT MAJOR ISSUES

The public prefers President Obama's approaches to those of congressional Republicans on several of this year's major policy issues. However, Obama's advantages are narrower on gun policies and the budget deficit than on immigration and climate change.

Overall, 45% say Obama has the better approach in dealing with gun policies, compared with 39% who favor

Republicans in Congress on this issue. While Republicans overwhelmingly favor GOP members in Congress (76%) and Democrats support Obama (79%), independents are divided: 42% say congressional Republicans have a better approach, while 39% think Obama has a better approach.

---

### Obama Has Advantage on Key Issues

<i>Dealing with...</i>	<i>Who has the better approach...</i>			<b>Obama adv</b>
	<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>Republicans in Congress</b>	<b>Neither/Same/DK</b>	
	%	%	%	
Gun policies	45	39	15=100	+6
Budget deficit	45	38	17=100	+7
Immigration	50	33	17=100	+17
Climate change	47	26	27=100	+21

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q10.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

Opinions are comparable about whether Obama (45%) or congressional Republicans (38%) have a better approach to the deficit. Again, independents are split: 39% favor Obama while 38% prefer congressional Republicans.

Obama holds wider leads among the public for having a better approach to immigration (50% to 33%) and climate change (47% to 26%). Independents prefer Obama's approach to congressional Republicans' on both issues (46% to 33% on immigration; 42% to 26% on climate change).

Obama's approach on immigration is widely favored by Hispanics: 73% say Obama has a better approach on immigration, compared with just 15% who prefer congressional Republicans. Blacks support Obama by about the same margin (77% to 13%). But opinions are divided among whites – 39% say Obama has a better approach, compared with 42% who favor congressional Republicans.

## Most Say Action on Deficit Is Essential This Year

There is broad agreement that major legislation to reduce the federal budget deficit is essential this year. Seven-in-ten (70%) express this view, including 81% of Republicans, 70% of independents and 65% of Democrats. And when it comes to the focus for the next steps in deficit reduction, about three-quarters of the public (76%) say that the president and Congress should focus on a combination of both spending cuts and tax increases; just 19% say the focus should only be on cuts and 3% say it should only be on taxes.

Across all three partisan groups majorities advocate an approach that includes both spending cuts and tax increases, although Republicans (56%) are less likely than independents (76%) or Democrats (90%) to say this; 42% of Republicans favor an approach that would *only* include spending cuts.

---

### Some Common Ground on the Deficit: Majorities Say Focus Should Be on Spending *and* Taxes

<i>To reduce budget deficit, president and Congress should focus on...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Only spending cuts	19	42	6	18
Only tax increases	3	2	3	3
Combination of both	76	56	90	76
Mostly spending cuts	54	46	56	57
Mostly tax increases	16	8	26	14
Don't know	6	2	7	5
Other/Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q11-12.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

Those who favor a combination of spending cuts and tax increases were asked which should receive greater focus. Most of those who favor a mixed approach say the focus should be primarily on spending cuts (54% of the public overall). Just 16% of the public say the focus should mostly be on tax increases.

Nearly nine-in-ten Republicans (88%) say deficit reduction should be achieved either only with spending cuts (42%) or mostly through cuts (46%). Just 6% of Democrats say deficit-reduction efforts should concentrate solely on spending cuts. But an additional 56% of Democrats say the focus should be mostly on spending cuts.



## Little Awareness of Budget Sequester

While the public views deficit reduction as an urgent matter, the approaching deadline for major cuts in government spending – the so-called budget sequester – has not registered widely.

With a little more than a week to go before the March 1 deadline, there is only modest public awareness about the major cuts in defense and domestic government spending automatically scheduled to go into effect.

Only about a quarter (27%) of Americans have heard a lot about these cuts; 43% say they have heard a little, while 29% have heard nothing at all. By comparison, public attentiveness to the debate over raising the debt ceiling was far greater in July 2011. In a survey conducted July 20-24, 2011, about two weeks before the Aug. 2 debt ceiling deadline, 50% had heard a lot about the possibility of a government default.

There is also a partisan gap in attentiveness to the March 1 deadline; 36% of Republicans say they have heard a lot about the automatic spending cuts scheduled to take effect, compared with just 23% of Democrats and 25% of independents. And awareness is particularly high among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party movement, nearly half of whom (48%) say they have heard a lot about the possible sequester.

---

### Public Less Aware of Sequester than Gov't Default in 2011

<i>Heard about...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Automatic spending cuts to occur on 3/1</i>	%	%	%	%
<b>Feb 13-18, 2013</b>				
A lot	27	36	23	25
A little	43	41	44	45
Nothing at all	29	22	33	29
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Possibility gov't might go into default if no deal on debt limit</i>				
<b>July 20-24, 2011</b>				
A lot	50	52	53	49
A little	32	33	34	30
Nothing at all	16	13	11	20
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q40. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

If the sequester deadline is reached without a deficit agreement between the president and Congress, there is somewhat more support for delaying the cuts than for letting them go into effect (49% vs. 40%). The majority of Democrats (57%) say the cuts should be delayed in this case, while both Republicans and independents are more evenly divided.

Those who say they have heard a lot about the potential spending cuts are more supportive of letting them take effect (47%) than those who have heard little or nothing about the issue (37%). About half (54%) of Republicans who have heard a lot about the possible sequester say the cuts should go into effect in the absence of a deficit agreement; that compares with 38% of less attentive Republicans. There are no significant differences by attention among either Democrats or independents.

Overall, 49% would mostly blame GOP leaders if no deficit reduction agreement is reached by the March 1 deadline. Just 31% would mostly blame Obama, while 11% volunteer that both would be equally to blame.

### Attentive Republicans Say Let Sequester Happen

*If no agreement by 3/1, better to ...*

	Let cuts go into effect %	Delay cuts %	DK %	N
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>11=100</b>	<b>1504</b>
Republican	44	48	8=100	366
Democrat	32	57	11=100	470
Independent	45	45	10=100	604
<i>Among those who have...</i>				
<b>Heard a lot about the automatic cuts</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7=100</b>	<b>475</b>
Republican	54	38	8=100	149
Democrat	31	62	7=100	127
Independent	50	44	6=100	182
<b>Heard a little/nothing</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>12=100</b>	<b>1013</b>
Republican	38	54	8=100	212
Democrat	32	55	13=100	341
Independent	43	46	11=100	416

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q41. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### GOP Leaders Would Take More Blame for Sequester

<i>If no agreement by 3/1, who would be more to blame ...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Republicans in Congress	49	14	79	47
President Obama	31	66	10	29
Both equally (Vol.)	11	14	4	14
Neither/Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q42. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

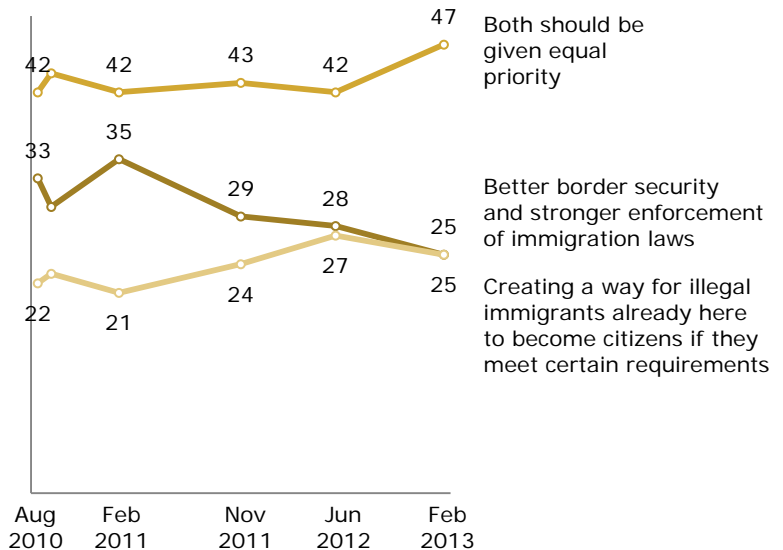
## Immigration: Less Support for Enforcement as Policy Priority

A quarter of the public says the priority for dealing with illegal immigration should be better border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws. The same percentage (25%) says the priority should be creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements.

Far more (47%) say both should be given equal priority. That has increased from 42% two years ago, while the percentage saying stronger border security should be the priority has declined from 35% to 25% today.

### Fewer Emphasizing Enforcement Over Path to Citizenship

What should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q15.

Fewer say it is essential for the president and Congress to act on immigration this year than say that about the budget deficit. Yet 51% say passing major immigration legislation is essential to do this year and another 37% say it should be done in the next few years.

The plurality view, even among groups with different views about illegal immigration, is that major immigration legislation should be enacted this year. About half (51%) of those who say better border security should be the priority think it is essential to pass major immigration legislation this year, as do 55% who prioritize creating a path to citizenship. Similarly, 50% of those who say both should be given equal priority think passing legislation is essential this year.

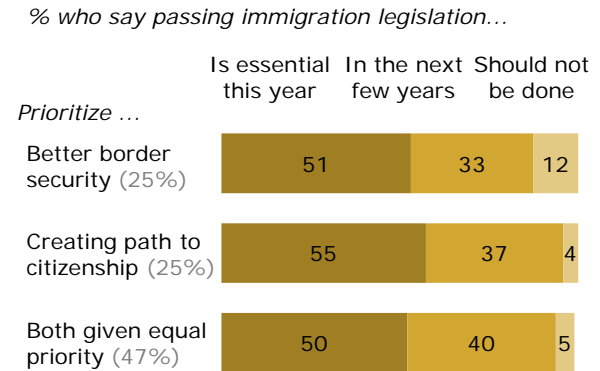
A plurality of whites (45%) and 58% of African Americans say that increased border security and enforcement of immigration laws *and* creating a path to citizenship should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration.

Among Hispanics, 41% say creating a path to citizenship should be the priority. About half (49%) say a path to citizenship, along with better border security and stronger enforcement, should be the focus for dealing with illegal immigration.

A majority of Democrats (52%) and 47% of independents think that both enforcement and creating a path to citizenship should be given equal priority.

Republicans, by contrast, are divided between prioritizing better border security and enforcement (43%) and both improved enforcement and creating a path to citizenship (43%).

### Similar Views of Immigration's Importance on All Sides of Debate



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q7c.

### Republicans Divided over Immigration Policy Priorities

Priority for dealing with illegal immigration ...	Better border security %	Creating path to citizenship %	Both equal priorities %	Other/DK %	N
Total	25	25	47	2=100	1,504
White	31	21	45	2=100	1,081
Black	13	28	58	1=100	151
Hispanic	8	41	49	2=100	149
18-29	22	37	41	1=100	237
30-49	26	24	48	1=100	418
50-64	29	18	50	3=100	438
65+	21	24	50	5=100	374
Republican	43	11	43	3=100	366
Democrat	14	32	52	1=100	470
Independent	25	26	47	2=100	604

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q15. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. White and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

## Gun Control: Little Change in Opinions

Public opinion shifted modestly toward support for gun control in the immediate aftermath of the school shooting in Newtown, Conn. on Dec. 14. Since then, there has been very little change in public attitudes toward gun control. Currently, 50% say controlling gun ownership is more important, while 46% prioritize protecting the right of Americans to own guns.

Significant partisan and demographic differences remain over this issue. About three-quarters of Republicans (74%) say protecting gun rights is more important, while 73% of Democrats say gun control is more important. Independents are about evenly divided (50% protect rights, 47% control ownership).

Republicans and Democrats are also divided over the importance of passing major legislation about gun policies. Fully 71% of Democrats say it is essential for Congress and the president to act on gun legislation this year, while an additional 18% say it can be done in the next few years;

just 9% of Democrats say it should not be done. By contrast, a narrow majority of Republicans (53%) say no action should be taken at all on gun legislation.

Three policy options currently at the forefront of the debate over gun policy – background checks, banning assault-style weapons, and banning high-capacity ammunition clips – all receive more public support than opposition. Background checks

## Public Divided over Gun Control

	Control gun ownership	Protect the right of Americans to own guns	DK
<i>Recent trend</i>	%	%	%
Feb 13-18, 2013	50	46	4=100
Jan 9-13, 2013	51	45	5=100
Dec 17-19, 2012	49	42	9=100
July 2012	47	46	6=100
Apr 2012	45	49	6=100
<i>Previous years</i>			
Mar 2011	47	48	6=100
Mar 2010	46	46	7=100
Apr 2009	49	45	6=100
Apr 2008	58	37	5=100
Apr 2007	60	32	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q19. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Partisan Gulf Over Urgency of Gun Legislation

*Priority for passing gun legislation...*

	Essential this year	Next few years	Should not be done	DK
	%	%	%	
Total	46	21	29	3=100
Republican	19	24	53	4=100
Democrat	71	18	9	2=100
Independent	42	23	33	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb 13-18, 2013. Q7b. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

for private sales and gun shows are particularly popular: 83% of Americans favor this, including large majorities across all major demographic and partisan groups.

Smaller majorities of Americans say they favor a ban on assault-style weapons (56%) and a ban on high-capacity ammunition clips that hold more than 10 bullets (53%). There are substantial partisan divisions over both proposals: 71% of Democrats favor a ban on assault-style weapons, compared with 52% of independents and 43% of Republicans. The partisan pattern is similar in opinions about a high-capacity ammunition ban.

---

**Broad Support for Making Private Gun Sales Subject to Background Checks**

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Background checks for private & gun show sales	83	15	2=100
Ban on assault-style weapons	56	41	3=100
Ban on high-capacity ammunition clips	53	44	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q20.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

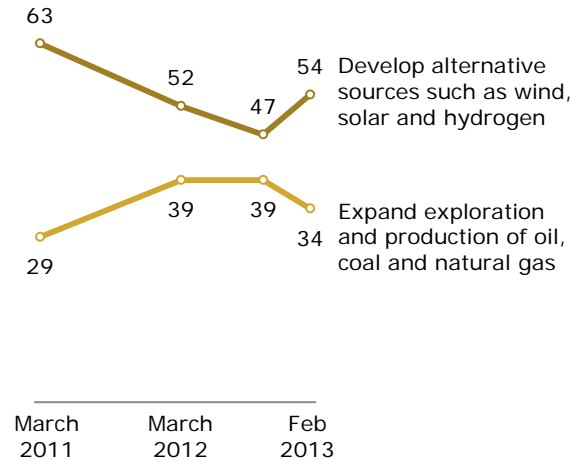
---

## Climate Change: Public Favors Stricter Emission Standards

By a 54% to 34% margin, more Americans say the priority for addressing the nation's energy supply should be developing alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen, over increased production of oil, coal and natural gas. Since 2011, the public has prioritized alternative sources over expanding production. Last October, the gap had narrowed: 47% said the priority should be developing alternative sources while 39% said the focus should be on expanding oil, coal and natural gas.

Further, fully 62% favor setting stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change while 28% oppose this. Those who favor stricter emission standards are far more likely to want new climate change policies this year. Nearly half (46%) of those who favor stricter emission standards say new climate policies are essential this year. That compares with just 15% of those who oppose stricter emission standards; 41% of whom say new climate policies should not be done at all.

### Public Continues to Prioritize Alternative Energy Sources



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q17.

There are strong partisan divides over the country's energy priorities and setting stricter emission standards. Only a third of Republicans (33%) say the priority should be developing alternative sources, while 54% say expanding production of oil, coal and gas should be the focus. The pattern is reversed among Democrats and independents, with far more saying developing alternative sources should be the priority.

By large margins, Democrats and independents also favor stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change (72% and 64%, respectively). By contrast, Republicans are divided; 42% favor stricter emission standards while 48% are opposed.

There are stark age differences over energy policy priorities. Fully 71% of those younger than 30 give greater priority to developing alternative sources, while just 24% prioritize increased production of oil, coal and gas.

Opinion among older age groups is more divided. Just 39% of those 65 and older

prioritize developing alternative sources while 44% say expanding production of oil, coal and gas should be the priority. Age differences are more modest in views of stricter emission limits on power plants to address climate change. Majorities across all age groups, including 70% of those under 30, favor this proposal.

---

### Partisan Divide on Energy and Stricter Emissions

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>More important energy priority ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen	54	33	64	59
Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal & natural gas	34	54	28	30
Both/Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Setting stricter emission limits on power plants to address climate change</i>				
Favor	62	42	72	64
Oppose	28	48	19	26
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q17 & Q18b.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---



---

### Young People More Likely to Prioritize Alternative Energy Sources

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
<i>More important energy priority ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen	71	57	48	39
Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal & natural gas	24	29	41	44
Both/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100
Favor stricter emission limits on power plants to address climate change	70	64	56	57

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q17 & Q18b.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---



## SECTION 2: VIEWS OF OBAMA, CONGRESS

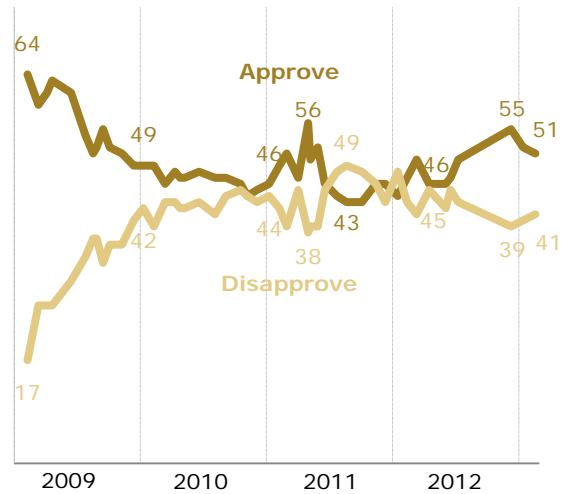
For three consecutive months, Barack Obama's overall job approval rating has held above 50%. But he receives mixed ratings when it comes to specific issues such as his handling of Afghanistan and gun control and more disapprove than approve of his handling of the budget deficit and economy. Obama's rating on the issue of immigration has improved markedly from 2011, particularly among Democrats, independents, and most notably among Hispanics.

Overall, 51% approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president, while 41% disapprove. Opinion is little changed from one month ago, but down slightly from a recent high of 55% approval in December, shortly after Obama's reelection.

Independents offer a mixed rating of Obama's job performance: 47% say they approve while nearly as many (43%) disapprove. Democrats are nearly unanimous in their approval of Obama's job performance (88% approve, 9% disapprove), while Republican express nearly the exact opposite views (87% disapprove, 10% approve).

While Obama's job ratings are up at least slightly among many demographic groups, one of the most striking turnarounds over the past year is in the views of Hispanics. In the last quarter of 2011 (approval data is merged on a quarterly basis to increase the sample size of Hispanics), just 48% of Hispanics nationwide approved, and 39% disapproved, of Obama's job in office. This coincided with a period in

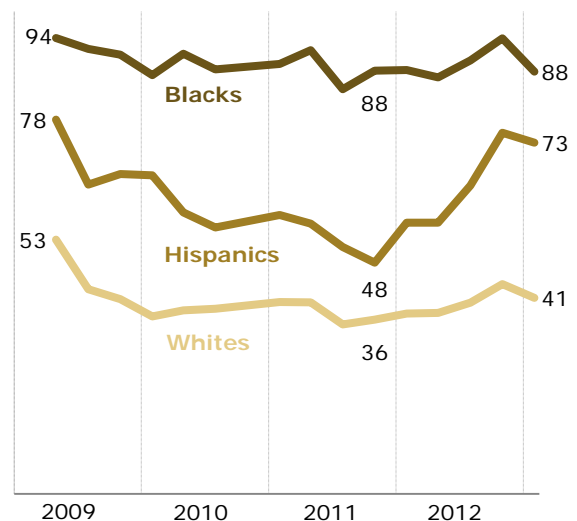
### Obama Job Approval



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q1.

### Obama's Job Rating Among Hispanics Rebounds

% approve



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q1. Data based on quarterly averages only of surveys with Spanish-language interviewing. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

which awareness and concern about the Obama administration’s record on deportations ran high among Hispanics, according to [research by the Pew Hispanic Center](#). Since then, approval among Hispanics has risen steadily. By the end of 2012, Hispanic approval had risen to 75%, and has held at 73% so far in the first quarter of 2013. Among blacks, Obama’s approval rating has remained steady (currently 88% approve). Among whites, Obama’s job rating has improved slightly since 2011, from 36% to 41%.

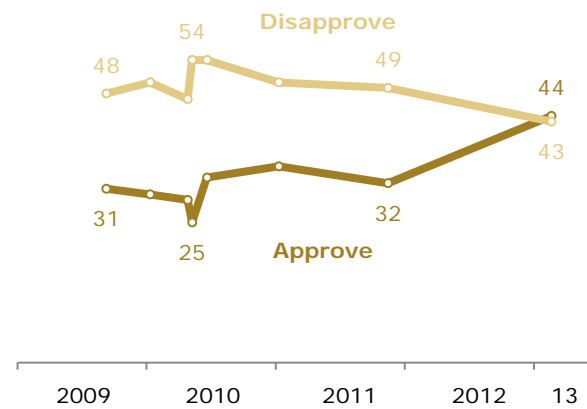
### Obama on the Issues

One of the sharpest improvements in Obama’s job ratings come on the issue of immigration. For the first time in his presidency as many approve as disapprove of the job he is doing on the issue, a change driven in large part by improved ratings from Hispanics.

Overall, 44% approve of how Obama is handling the nation’s immigration policy compared with 43% who disapprove. Approval is up 12 points from November 2011 and marks the first time in Obama’s presidency that disapproval has not outweighed approval.

There has been a complete turnaround in how Hispanics view Obama’s handling of immigration. Today, more approve than disapprove by a 63% to 27% margin. In November, 2011 that margin was reversed: 28% of Hispanics approved of the job Obama was doing on immigration policy while 59% disapproved. Democrats and independents also have become more likely to approve of Obama’s job handling immigration policy since 2011, while opinion among Republicans is little changed.

### Approval of Obama’s Job on Immigration Policy Rises



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q4c.

### More Hispanics Now Approve of Obama’s Handling of Immigration

	Nov 2011		Feb 2013	
	App-rove	Disapp-rove	App-rove	Disapp-rove
	%	%	%	%
Total	32	49	44	43
White	26	54	36	51
Black	62	13	68	22
Hispanic	28	59	63	27
Republican	11	75	16	73
Democrat	53	27	69	21
Independent	28	51	42	44

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. 4c.

Yet even with this improvement on the issue of immigration, Obama's job ratings on a wide range of specific issues are lower than the rating he receives for his overall performance. Out of the seven issues tested in the survey, there is no issue for which Obama receives an approval rating of 50% or better.

Obama receives the lowest marks for his handling of the budget deficit. Overall, just 34% approve of how Obama is handling the federal budget deficit, while 58% majority disapproves. Opinion on this question is little changed from last spring. Obama has received consistently low marks for his handling of the budget deficit throughout most of his presidency.

Views of Obama's job handling the economy also are negative. Four-in-ten (40%) approve, while 56% disapprove. Obama has not received an approval rating of 50% or better for his handling of the economy since June 2009, when 52% approved.

Following his decision to remove 34,000 troops from Afghanistan in the next year, 46% approve of how Obama is handling the situation in Afghanistan, while 42% disapprove. Opinion is little changed from last March, but Obama's approval rating on Afghanistan has fallen from 56% in January 2012.

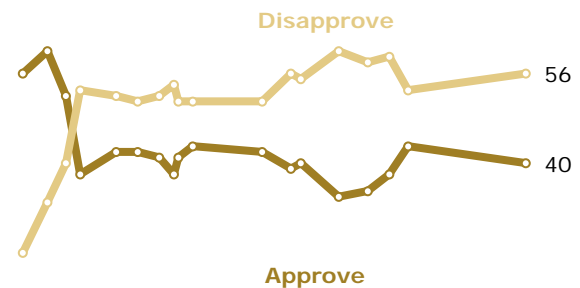
Obama receives mixed ratings for his handling of gun policies and foreign policy. On both issues, 44% approve of his performance, while about as many disapprove. Overall, 44% also approve of his handling of climate change, fewer disapprove (34%) and 22% do not offer a job rating on the issue.

### Low Marks for Obama's Handling of Economy, Budget Deficit

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Afghanistan	46	42	12=100
Climate change	44	34	22=100
Foreign policy	44	42	14=100
Immigration	44	43	13=100
Gun policies	44	49	8=100
Economy	40	56	4=100
Budget deficit	34	58	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q4. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Obama's Job Rating on Economy



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q4a.

## Views of Congressional Leaders

Views of Republican leaders in Congress remain at near-historic lows. Democratic leaders in Congress are viewed somewhat more positively, though more still disapprove than approve of their job performance.

Only 25% say they approve of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing, while 67% disapprove, little changed from December 2012. Republican leaders receive only a mixed rating from their own party members: 47% of Republicans approve of the job their Congressional leaders are doing and 47% disapprove. Independents disapprove of the job Republican leaders are doing by a 68% to 22% margin.

Roughly four-in-ten (37%) approve of the job Democratic leaders are doing, including 69% of Democrats. Independents view Democratic leaders only slightly better than they do Republican leaders: 29% approve, while 61% disapprove.

---

### Low Marks for Republican, Democratic Congressional Leaders

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Democratic leaders</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	37	10	69	29
Disapprove	55	87	25	61
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Republican leaders</i>				
Approve	25	47	15	22
Disapprove	67	47	80	68
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY Feb. 13-18, 2013. Q3.

---

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 13-18, 2013 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (752 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 752 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 364 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republicans	366	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	470	5.3 percentage points
Independents	604	4.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY**  
**FEBRUARY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 13-18, 2013**  
**N=1,504**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- Approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- Approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 13-18, 2013	51	41	7	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

See past presidents' approval trends: [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 13-18, 2013	31	64	5	May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4	May 2, 2011	32	60	8
Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7	Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7

## Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	August, 2003	40	53	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	<i>April 8, 2003</i>	50	41	9
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	May, 2002	44	44	12
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	March, 2002	50	40	10
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	March, 2001	47	45	8
December, 2008	13	83	4	February, 2001	46	43	11
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	January, 2001	55	41	4
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
August, 2008	21	74	5	September, 2000	51	41	8
July, 2008	19	74	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
June, 2008	19	76	5	April, 2000	48	43	9
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
March, 2008	22	72	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	November, 1998	46	44	10
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
February, 2007	30	61	9	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	August, 1997	49	46	5
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
July, 2006	30	65	5	July, 1996	29	67	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
March, 2006	32	63	5	October, 1995	23	73	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	June, 1995	25	73	2
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
July, 2005	35	58	7	March, 1994	24	71	5
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	October, 1993	22	73	5
February, 2005	38	56	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
January, 2005	40	54	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
December, 2004	39	54	7	January, 1993	39	50	11
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	January, 1992	28	68	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	November, 1991	34	61	5
May, 2004	33	61	6	<i>Gallup: Late Feb, 1991</i>	66	31	3
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	May, 1990	41	54	5
December, 2003	44	47	9	January, 1989	45	50	5
October, 2003	38	56	6	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

<sup>1</sup> In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Feb 13-18, 2013	25	67	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	25	67	8
Dec 7-11, 2011	21	68	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	23	67	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	22	69	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Jan 5-9, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	34	43	22
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19

<sup>2</sup> Question wording for Nov. 4-7, 2010, and Jan. 5-9, 2011, was: "Do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"



## Q.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
December, 1996 <sup>3</sup>	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Feb 13-18, 2013	37	55	8
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	53	7
Dec 7-11, 2011	31	58	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	61	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	63	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14

<sup>3</sup> From December, 1994, through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?"

## Q.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
November, 2006 <sup>5</sup>	50	21	29
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

**ASK ALL:**

Now, thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues...

- Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. The economy			
Feb 13-18, 2013	40	56	4
Mar 7-11, 2012	43	53	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	59	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	35	58	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
May 2, 2011	40	55	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20

<sup>4</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

<sup>5</sup> Question wording in November, 2006, and December, 1994, was: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

**Q.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
b. The federal budget deficit			
Feb 13-18, 2013	34	58	8
Mar 7-11, 2012	36	58	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	62	5
Nov 9-14, 2011	34	57	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	32	60	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	59	8
Jan 6-9, 2011	35	53	12
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	56	9
Jan 6-10, 2010	32	58	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	58	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	32	53	15
April 14-21, 2009	50	38	12
c. The nation's immigration policy			
Feb 13-18, 2013	44	43	13
Nov 9-14, 2011	32	49	20
Jan 6-9, 2011	35	50	16
Jun 16-20, 2010	33	54	12
May 6-9, 2010	25	54	21
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	47	24
Jan 6-10, 2010	30	50	21
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	48	21
d. Gun policies			
Feb 13-18, 2013	44	49	8
e. Climate change			
Feb 13-18, 2013	44	34	22
May 2010 <sup>6</sup>	45	37	18
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 <sup>7</sup>	44	32	24

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

f.F1 The nation's foreign policy			
Feb 13-18, 2013	44	42	14
Jan 11-16, 2012	46	45	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	40	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	40	15
Mar 10-14, 2010	42	40	18
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	40	16
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	44	38	18
Jul 22-26, 2009	47	32	21
Jun 10-14, 2009	57	31	12
Apr 14-21, 2009	61	22	17
Feb 4-8, 2009	52	17	31

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=764]:**

g.F2 The situation in Afghanistan			
Feb 13-18, 2013	46	42	12
Mar 7-11, 2012	49	42	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	56	37	7
May 2, 2011	60	29	11
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	43	45	11
Jan 6-9, 2011	44	42	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	46	9

<sup>6</sup> Trend from the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project  
<sup>7</sup> Oct. 28-Nov. 8, 2009 survey asked about "global climate change."

**Q.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	41	42	17
Mar 10-14, 2010	51	35	15
Jan 6-10, 2010	45	43	12
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	36	49	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	47	33	19

**NO QUESTIONS 5-6****ASK ALL:**

- Q.7 Next, how essential do you think it is for the president and Congress to act on the following issues THIS YEAR? (First,) Is **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** ESSENTIAL to do THIS YEAR, something that can be done in the next few years, or should it not be done? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** Is this essential to do this year, can it be done in the next few years, or should it not be done?]

	<u>Essential this year</u>	<u>Next few years</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Passing major legislation to reduce the federal budget deficit February 13-18, 2013	70	21	4	5
b. Passing major legislation about gun policies February 13-18, 2013	46	21	29	3
c. Passing major legislation about immigration February 13-18, 2013	51	37	7	5
d. Setting new federal policies about climate change February 13-18, 2013	34	39	19	8

**ASK IF MORE THAN ONE ITEM IN Q.7 IS ESSENTIAL (Q.7a-d=1 FOR 2+ ITEMS):**

- Q.8 If you had to choose just one of these issues, which one would be the MOST essential for the president and Congress to act on this year? **[READ JUST ITEMS RESPONDENT NAMED AS ESSENTIAL IN Q7 IN SAME ORDER AS Q7]**

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Feb 13-18 <u>2013</u> <sup>8</sup>	
51	The federal budget deficit
17	Gun policies
15	Immigration
7	Climate change
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
8	<i>None essential in Q.7</i>

**NO QUESTION 9**

<sup>8</sup> Includes those who named only one issue as essential in Q.7.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 And thinking about these same issues, who do you think has the better approach to dealing with **[INSERT ITEM; SAME ORDER AS Q.7]** Barack Obama or Republicans in Congress? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Who do you think has the better approach to dealing with (ITEM)?]**

	<u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>Republicans in Congress</u>	<u>(VOL.) Same/No difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither/ Other</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. The federal budget deficit					
Feb 13-18, 2013	45	38	1	8	7
<i>Newsweek</i> : Feb 17-18, 2010 <sup>9</sup>	42	33	1	14	10
b. Gun policies					
Feb 13-18, 2013	45	39	1	6	8
c. Immigration					
Feb 13-18, 2013	50	33	1	5	10
d. Climate change					
Feb 13-18, 2013	47	26	2	8	17
<i>Newsweek</i> : Feb 17-18, 2010 <sup>10</sup>	38	26	1	11	24

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.11 In your view, as Congress and the president discuss steps to reduce the budget deficit over the coming months, should they focus **[RANDOMIZE: ONLY on spending cuts, ONLY on tax increases]** or should they do a combination of both?

**ASK IF COMBINATION OF BOTH (Q11=3):**

Q.12 If both spending cuts and tax increases are being considered should the focus be **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Feb 13-18

2013

19	Only on spending cuts
3	Only on tax increases
76	Combination of both
54	Mostly on spending cuts
16	Mostly on tax increases
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
*	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
73	NET Only/Mostly spending cuts
19	NET Only/Mostly tax increases

**NO QUESTIONS 13-14**

<sup>9</sup> Feb 17-18, <sup>2010</sup>, Newsweek survey asked: "As I read you some different issues and problems, please tell me who you think has the better approach to dealing with each one--Barack Obama or Republicans in Congress. Who do you think has the better approach on...dealing with government debt and the federal budget deficit?"

<sup>10</sup> Feb 17-18, <sup>2010</sup>, Newsweek survey asked: "As I read you some different issues and problems, please tell me who you think has the better approach to dealing with each one--Barack Obama or Republicans in Congress. Who do you think has the better approach on...dealing with government debt and the federal budget deficit?"

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about some issues...

- Q.15 What should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE;** (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?

	Better border security and stronger enforcement of our <u>immigration laws.</u>	Creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet <u>certain requirements</u>	Both should be given equal <u>priority</u>	(VOL.) None of these	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Feb 13-18, 2013	25	25	47	1	2
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	27	42	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	29	24	43	2	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	35	21	42	1	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	30	23	44	1	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	33	22	42	1	3

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about some issues...

- Q.15 What should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE;** (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?

**ASK IF BOTH (Q.15=3):**

- Q.16 If you had to choose, which ONE would you say should be the bigger priority? **[READ ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS IN Q.15:** (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements]?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Feb 13-18

2013

25	Better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws
25	Creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements
47	Both should be given equal priority
22	If had to choose, border security and enforcement
24	If had to choose, creating a way to become citizens
1	If had to choose, Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	None of these <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
47	NET Border security and enforcement
49	NET Creating a way to become citizens

**ASK ALL:**

- Q.17 Which one of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 13-18

2013

Mar 7-11

2012

Feb 22-Mar 1

2011

54	Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology	52	63
34	Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas	39	29
7	Both should be given equal priority <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	6
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

	----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Net	<i>Strongly favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Net	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
a. An increase in the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00 an hour							
Feb 13-18, 2013	71	36	34	26	10	16	3
January, 2007 <sup>11</sup>	84	48	36	14	6	8	2
March, 2006	86	49	37	11	3	8	3
December, 2004	86	53	33	12	4	8	2
June, 2001	87	49	38	12	4	8	1
October, 1999	82	48	34	16	4	12	2
February, 1998	80	48	32	19	5	14	1
b. Setting stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change							
Feb 13-18, 2013	62	28	33	28	10	18	10

**ASK ALL:**

Q.19 What do you think is more important – to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

	Protect right of Americans	Control	(VOL.)
	<u>to own guns</u>	<u>gun ownership</u>	DK/Ref
Feb 13-18, 2013	46	50	4
Jan 9-13, 2013	45	51	5
Dec 17-19, 2012	42	49	9
July 26-29, 2012	46	47	6
Apr 4-15, 2012	49	45	6
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	47	49	5
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	47	6
Jan 13-16, 2011	49	46	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	46	50	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	46	7
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	45	49	6
April, 2008	37	58	5
November, 2007	42	55	3
April, 2007	32	60	8
February, 2004	37	58	5
June, 2003	42	54	4
May, 2000	38	57	5
April, 2000	37	55	8
March, 2000	29	66	5
June, 1999	33	62	5
May, 1999	30	65	5
December, 1993	34	57	9

11

In January 2007, the question was worded, "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour." March 2006, December 2004, June 2011 and October 2009, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.45 an hour." In February 1998, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following proposals about gun policy. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you favor or oppose [ITEM]?**

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	A ban on high-capacity ammunition clips that hold more than 10 bullets			
	Feb 13-18, 2013	53	44	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	54	42	4
	Dec 17-19, 2012	53	42	5
b.	Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks			
	Feb 13-18, 2013	83	15	2
	Jan 9-13, 2012	85	12	3
c.	A ban on assault style weapons			
	Feb 13-18, 2013	56	41	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	55	40	5

**NO QUESTIONS 21, 24-27, 29-37**

**QUESTIONS 22-23, 28, 38-39 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.40 How much, if anything, have you heard about major cuts in defense and domestic government spending that will automatically happen on March 1<sup>st</sup> unless the president and Congress reach an agreement on deficit reduction? Have you heard...**[READ IN ORDER]**

Feb 13-18

2013

27	A lot
43	A little
29	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 If the president and Congress can't reach a deficit reduction agreement before the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Feb 13-18

2013

49	Would it be better to delay the automatic spending cuts
40	Would it be better to let the automatic spending cuts go into effect
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.42 If a deficit reduction agreement is not reached before the deadline, who do you think would be more to blame **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Feb 13-18

2013

49	Republicans in Congress
31	President Obama
11	Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	Neither <b>(VOL.)</b>
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>



## NO QUESTIONS 43-47, 55-60

## QUESTIONS 48-54, 61-64 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

## ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Feb. 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=610]:**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

Feb 13-18 <u>2013</u>		Jan 9-13 <u>2013</u>
36	Agree	35
9	Disagree	10
52	No opinion either way	51
1	Haven't heard of <b>(VOL.)</b>	2
3	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2