



Interviews with 1,023 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on March 11-13, 2011. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15 AT 3 PM

22. When it comes to dealing with the tough choices involved both in cutting programs to reduce the budget deficit and still maintaining needed federal programs, whose approach do you prefer: the Republicans in Congress or President Obama's?

	Mar. 11-13 <u>2011</u>	Jan. 14-16 <u>2011</u>
Republicans in Congress	47%	43%
Obama	43%	46%
Neither (vol.)	6%	6%
Both (vol.)	1%	2%
No opinion	3%	3%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

Clinton administration: *When it comes to dealing with the tough choices involved BOTH in cutting programs to reduce the budget deficit AND still maintaining needed federal programs, whose approach do you prefer: the Republicans' in Congress or President Clinton's?*

	Republicans <u>in Congress</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	Neither <u>(vol.)</u>	Both <u>(vol.)</u>	No <u>opinion</u>
1998 Jan 6-7	39	43	6	2	10
1997 Jul 25-27	38	49	6	2	5
1995 Dec 15-18	38	52	5	1	4
1995 Jul 7-9	48	42	3	2	5

23. Suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few days because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you consider that a good thing for the country or a bad thing for the country?

Mar. 11-13

2011

Good thing	36%
Bad thing	59%
Neutral/mixed (vol.)	4%
No opinion	2%

24. Now suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few weeks because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you consider that a good thing for the country or a bad thing for the country?

Mar. 11-13

2011

Good thing	24%
Bad thing	73%
Neutral/mixed (vol.)	1%
No opinion	2%

25. If the federal government shuts down, do you think that Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would be more responsible for that?

Mar. 11-13

2011

Obama	37%
Republicans	46%
Both (vol.)	14%
Neutral (vol.)	1%
No opinion	2%

Question 22

When it comes to dealing with the tough choices involved both in cutting programs to reduce the budget deficit and still maintaining needed federal programs, whose approach do you prefer: the Republicans in Congress or President Obama's?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Republicans in Congress	47%	49%	45%	53%	31%
Obama	43%	39%	47%	36%	63%
Neither	6%	8%	4%	7%	4%
Both	1%	2%	*	1%	*
No Opinion	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-7.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Republicans in Congress	47%	N/A	47%	44%	55%	45%	48%
Obama	43%	N/A	41%	46%	36%	44%	42%
Neither	6%	N/A	9%	6%	5%	7%	5%
Both	1%	N/A	*	*	2%	1%	1%
No Opinion	3%	N/A	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0		+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Republicans in Congress	47%	44%	50%	45%	48%
Obama	43%	46%	39%	45%	41%
Neither	6%	7%	5%	7%	5%
Both	1%	*	2%	1%	1%
No Opinion	3%	3%	3%	1%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Republicans in Congress	47%	14%	42%	92%	12%	33%	76%
Obama	43%	77%	43%	4%	77%	53%	18%
Neither	6%	6%	9%	1%	6%	8%	3%
Both	1%	1%	2%	*	*	2%	1%
No Opinion	3%	3%	4%	2%	5%	4%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Republicans in Congress	47%	39%	48%	50%	47%	37%	47%	57%
Obama	43%	52%	44%	39%	40%	53%	41%	34%
Neither	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	4%	8%	6%
Both	1%	*	*	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%
No Opinion	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	5%	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Republicans in Congress	47%	88%	44%	15%
Obama	43%	6%	44%	73%
Neither	6%	3%	5%	11%
Both	1%	*	2%	1%
No Opinion	3%	3%	5%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.5

* percentage less than 1%

Question 23

Suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few days because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you consider that a good thing for the country or a bad thing for the country?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White			
Good thing	36%	38%	33%	40%	25%			
Bad thing	59%	58%	59%	55%	70%			
Neutral/Mixed	4%	2%	5%	4%	2%			
No Opinion	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%			
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-7.5			
		18-	35-	50-		Under	50 and	
	Total	34	49	64	65+	50	Older	
Good thing	36%	N/A	40%	41%	32%	34%	37%	
Bad thing	59%	N/A	55%	56%	63%	59%	59%	
Neutral/Mixed	4%	N/A	4%	2%	3%	5%	2%	
No Opinion	2%	N/A	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	
Sampling Error	+/-3.0		+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5	
	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College			
Good thing	36%	36%	37%	32%	38%			
Bad thing	59%	60%	56%	62%	56%			
Neutral/Mixed	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%			
No Opinion	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%			
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-3.5			
	Total	Demo- crat	Indep- endent	Repub- lican	Lib- eral	Mod- erate	Conser- vative	
Good thing	36%	21%	35%	53%	21%	25%	51%	
Bad thing	59%	75%	59%	39%	74%	68%	43%	
Neutral/Mixed	4%	2%	3%	6%	1%	3%	5%	
No Opinion	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	
	Total	North east	Mid- west	South	West	Urban	Sub- urban	Rural
Good thing	36%	30%	51%	32%	31%	31%	37%	39%
Bad thing	59%	67%	45%	61%	62%	64%	57%	56%
Neutral/Mixed	4%	1%	2%	5%	5%	3%	4%	3%
No Opinion	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0
	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose				
Good thing	36%	62%	33%	18%				
Bad thing	59%	34%	59%	79%				
Neutral/Mixed	4%	3%	4%	1%				
No Opinion	2%	*	4%	1%				
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.5				

* percentage less than 1%

Question 24

Now suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few weeks because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you consider that a good thing for the country or a bad thing for the country?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Good thing	24%	27%	21%	26%	18%
Bad thing	73%	71%	75%	71%	80%
Neutral/Mixed	1%	1%	2%	1%	*
No Opinion	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-7.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Good thing	24%	N/A	27%	27%	23%	23%	26%
Bad thing	73%	N/A	71%	71%	74%	74%	72%
Neutral/Mixed	1%	N/A	1%	*	1%	2%	1%
No Opinion	2%	N/A	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0		+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Good thing	24%	24%	25%	23%	25%
Bad thing	73%	73%	73%	74%	72%
Neutral/Mixed	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
No Opinion	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Good thing	24%	9%	26%	39%	11%	14%	40%
Bad thing	73%	89%	71%	57%	84%	83%	57%
Neutral/Mixed	1%	*	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
No Opinion	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Good thing	24%	21%	31%	26%	18%	18%	27%	26%
Bad thing	73%	78%	64%	71%	78%	78%	70%	71%
Neutral/Mixed	1%	1%	2%	*	2%	1%	1%	2%
No Opinion	2%	*	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Good thing	24%	52%	17%	10%
Bad thing	73%	46%	78%	87%
Neutral/Mixed	1%	1%	2%	1%
No Opinion	2%	1%	3%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.5

* percentage less than 1%

Question 25

If the federal government shuts down, do you think that Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would be more responsible for that?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Obama	37%	36%	39%	40%	31%
Republicans	46%	46%	46%	42%	57%
Both	14%	16%	12%	14%	10%
Neither	1%	1%	1%	2%	*
No Opinion	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-7.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Obama	37%	N/A	37%	31%	42%	39%	36%
Republicans	46%	N/A	47%	52%	45%	44%	49%
Both	14%	N/A	13%	14%	9%	15%	12%
Neither	1%	N/A	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
No Opinion	2%	N/A	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0		+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Obama	37%	43%	33%	40%	35%
Republicans	46%	41%	50%	45%	48%
Both	14%	13%	14%	12%	15%
Neither	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
No Opinion	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama	37%	22%	34%	60%	15%	31%	54%
Republicans	46%	63%	48%	24%	75%	51%	29%
Both	14%	12%	16%	11%	7%	15%	13%
Neither	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%
No Opinion	2%	1%	1%	3%	*	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-7.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Obama	37%	32%	34%	40%	42%	26%	40%	45%
Republicans	46%	55%	47%	42%	44%	55%	45%	38%
Both	14%	12%	14%	16%	11%	17%	12%	12%
Neither	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
No Opinion	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Obama	37%	63%	39%	13%
Republicans	46%	17%	45%	74%
Both	14%	18%	12%	11%
Neither	1%	1%	2%	1%
No Opinion	2%	2%	2%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.5

* percentage less than 1%