

Interviews with 620 adult Americans conducted by telephone by ORC International on December 17-18, 2012. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The sample includes 463 interviews among landline respondents and 157 interviews among cell phone respondents.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

|  | App- <br> rove | Disapp- <br> rove | No opinion |  | App- <br> rove | Disapprove | No opinion |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dec. 17-18, 2012 | 52\% | 43\% | 4\% | Jan. 21-23, 2011 | 55\% | 44\% | 1\% |
|  |  |  |  | Jan. 14-16, 2011 | 53\% | 45\% | 2\% |
| Nov. 16-18, 2012 | 52\% | 43\% | 5\% | Dec. 17-19, 2010 | 48\% | 48\% | 4\% |
| Nov. 2-4, 2012 | 51\% | 45\% | 4\% | Nov. 11-14, 2010 | 48\% | 50\% | 3\% |
| Sept. 28-30, 2012 | 49\% | 48\% | 3\% | Oct. 27-30, 2010 | 46\% | 51\% | 4\% |
| Sept. 7-9, 2012 | 51\% | 44\% | 5\% | Oct. 5-7, 2010 | 45\% | 52\% | 3\% |
| Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 2012 | 48\% | 45\% | 7\% | Sept. 21-23, 2010 | 42\% | 54\% | 4\% |
| Aug. 22-23, 2012 | 50\% | 44\% | 6\% | Sept. 1-2, 2010 | 50\% | 49\% | 1\% |
| Aug. 7-8, 2012 | 50\% | 47\% | 3\% | Aug. 6-10, 2010 | 47\% | 51\% | 2\% |
| June 28-July 1, 2012 | 51\% | 47\% | 2\% | July 16-21, 2010 | 47\% | 50\% | 2\% |
| May 29-31, 2012 | 52\% | 47\% | 1\% | June 16, 2010 | 50\% | 48\% | 2\% |
| Apr. 13-15, 2012 | 49\% | 48\% | 3\% | May 21-23, 2010 | 51\% | 46\% | 3\% |
| Mar. 24-25, 2012 | 51\% | 45\% | 4\% | Apr. 9-11, 2010 | 51\% | 47\% | 2\% |
| Feb. 10-13, 2012 | 50\% | 48\% | 2\% | Mar. 25-28, 2010 | 51\% | 48\% | 1\% |
| Jan. 11-12, 2012 | 47\% | 51\% | 3\% | Mar. 19-21, 2010 | 46\% | 51\% | 3\% |
| Dec. 16-18, 2011 | 49\% | 48\% | 3\% | Feb. 12-15, 2010 | 49\% | 50\% | 1\% |
| Nov. 18-20, 2011 | 44\% | 54\% | 3\% | Jan. 22-24, 2010 | 49\% | 50\% | * |
| Nov. 11-13, 2011 | 46\% | 52\% | 2\% | Jan. 8-10, 2010 | 51\% | 48\% | 1\% |
| Oct.14-16, 2011 | 46\% | 50\% | 3\% | Dec. 16-20, 2009 | 54\% | 44\% | 2\% |
| Sept. 23-25, 2011 | 45\% | 52\% | 3\% | Dec. 2-3, 2009 | 48\% | 50\% | 2\% |
| Sept. 9-11, 2011 | 43\% | 55\% | 2\% | Nov. 13-15, 2009 | 55\% | 42\% | 3\% |
| Aug. 24-25, 2011 | 45\% | 54\% | 1\% | Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2009 | 54\% | 45\% | 1\% |
| Aug. 5-7, 2011 | 44\% | 54\% | 2\% | Oct. 16-18, 2009 | 55\% | 43\% | 2\% |
| Aug. 1, 2011 | 45\% | 52\% | 2\% | Sept. 11-13, 2009 | 58\% | 40\% | 2\% |
| July 18-20, 2011 | 45\% | 54\% | 2\% | Aug. 28-31, 2009 | 53\% | 45\% | 2\% |
| June 3-7, 2011 | 48\% | 48\% | 5\% | July 31-Aug. 3, 2009 | 56\% | 40\% | 4\% |
| May 24-26, 2011 | 54\% | 45\% | 2\% | June 26-28, 2009 | 61\% | 37\% | 3\% |
| May 2, 2011 | 52\% | 43\% | 5\% | May 14-17, 2009 | 62\% | 35\% | 3\% |
| Apr. 29-May 1, 2011 | 51\% | 46\% | 3\% | Apr. 23-26, 2009 | 63\% | 33\% | 5\% |
| Apr. 9-10, 2011 | 48\% | 50\% | 2\% | Apr. 3-5, 2009 | 66\% | 30\% | 3\% |
| Mar. 18-20, 2011 | 51\% | 47\% | 2\% | March 12-15, 2009 | 64\% | 34\% | 2\% |
| Mar. 11-13, 2011 | 50\% | 47\% | 3\% | Feb. 18-19, 2009 | 67\% | 29\% | 4\% |
|  |  |  |  | Feb. 7-8, 2009 | 76\% | 23\% | 1\% |

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

1A. (IF APPROVE) Do you approve strongly, or only moderately?
1B. (IF DISAPPROVE) Do you disapprove strongly, or only moderately?
QUESTIONS 1, 1A AND 1B COMBINED

|  | Dec. 17-18 | Dec. 16-18 | Jan. 21-23 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{2012}$ | $\underline{2011}$ | $\underline{2011}$ |  |
| Approve strongly | $32 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $30 \%$ |  |
| Approve moderately | $20 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $24 \%$ |  |
| Disapprove moderately | $9 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $16 \%$ |  |
| Disapprove strongly | $34 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $28 \%$ |  |
| No opinion | $5 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr. 9-11 | Jan. 8-10 | Aug. $28-31$ | Feb. 18-19 |
|  | $\underline{2010}$ | $\underline{2010}$ | $\underline{2009}$ | $\underline{2009}$ |
| Approve strongly | $29 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Approve moderately | $22 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $40 \%$ |
| Disapprove moderately | $13 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $27 \%$ |
| Disapprove strongly | $34 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
| No opinion | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $19 \%$ |

3. Do you have more confidence in President Obama or in the Republicans in Congress to deal with the major issues facing the country today?

|  | Dec. 17-18 <br> $\underline{2012}$ | Dec. 16-18 | Mar. 11-13 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{2011}$ | $\underline{2011}$ |
| Obama | $49 \%$ | $50 \%$ |  |
| Republicans in Congress | $31 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| Both equally (vol.) | $4 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| Neither (vol.) | $14 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
| No opinion | $2 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
|  |  |  | $1 \%$ |

## FOR COMPARISON:

| CNN/TIME TRENDS |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Do you have more confidence in President Clinton or in the Republicans in Congress to deal with the major issues facing the country today? |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Clinton | Republicans in Congress | Both equally (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No Opinion |
| 1998 Sep 23-24 | 53\% | 35\% | 3\% | 4\% | 5\% |
| 1998 Sep 16-17 | 52\% | 35\% | 2\% | 6\% | 5\% |
| 1998 Jan 14-15 | 46\% | 34\% | 3\% | 11\% | 6\% |
| 1997 Feb 5-6 | 48\% | 34\% | 5\% | 9\% | 4\% |
| 1996 May 8-9 | 45\% | 37\% | 3\% | 10\% | 5\% |
| 1995 Dec 6-7 | 49\% | 35\% | 3\% | 8\% | 5\% |
| 1995 Sep 13-14 | 41\% | 42\% | 2\% | 9\% | 6\% |
| 1995 Apr 27 | 41\% | 38\% | 5\% | 10\% | 6\% |
| 1995 Mar 29-30 | 42\% | 41\% | 3\% | 7\% | 7\% |
| 1995 Mar 22-23 | 36\% | 43\% | 3\% | 13\% | 5\% |
| 1994 Dec 7-8 | 30\% | 46\% | 3\% | 13\% | 8\% |

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Boehner is handling his job as Speaker of the House?

|  | Dec. 17-18 <br> $\underline{2012}$ | Apr. 29-May 1 <br> $\underline{2011}$ | Apr. 9-10 <br> $\underline{2011}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| Approve | $34 \%$ | $38 \%$ | $41 \%$ |
| Disapprove | $52 \%$ | $43 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| No opinion | $14 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $15 \%$ |

9. Do you think it is good for the country or bad for the country that the Republican Party is in control of the U.S. House of Representatives?

|  | Dec. 17-18 <br> $\underline{2012}$ | May 24-26 <br> 2011 | Jan. 14-16 | Dec. 17-19 | Nov. 11-14 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\boxed{2011}$ | $\underline{2010}$ | $\underline{2010}$ |  |  |
| Good for country | $51 \%$ |  | $48 \%$ |  | $50 \%$ |
|  | $51 \%$ | $52 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Bad for country | $43 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $42 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| Neither (vol.) | $5 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
| No opinion | $1 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $3 \%$ |

QUESTION WORDING PRIOR TO JANUARY 2011: Do you think it will be good for the country or bad for the country that the Republican party will be in control of the U.S. House?
10. If the two parties can develop bipartisan solutions to the country's problems, which party do you think should give up more of the proposals it supports -- the Democratic party or the Republican party?

|  | Dec. 17-18 | Dec. 17-19 | Feb. 12-15 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{2012}$ | $\underline{2010^{*}}$ | $\underline{2010}$ |
| Democratic party | $41 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $51 \%$ |
| Republican party | $53 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $43 \%$ |
| No opinion | $6 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |

11. Overall, would you describe the views and policies of each of the following as too extreme, or as generally mainstream?

|  | Dec. 17-18 | Sept. 21-23 | July 16-21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{2012}$ | 2010 | $\underline{2010}$ |
| The Republican Party |  |  |  |
| Too extreme | 53\% | 36\% | 39\% |
| Generally mainstream | 43\% | 58\% | 56\% |
| Mixed/Neither (vol.) | 2\% | 4\% | 4\% |
| No opinion | 2\% | 3\% | 1\% |
|  | CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS |  |  |

The Republican Party 2004 Sep 3-5 2004 Jul 30-Aug 1 2000 Aug 18-19 2000 Aug 4-5

|  | Dec. 17-18 <br> The Democratic Party | $\underline{2012}$ | Sept. 21-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Too extreme | $\underline{2010}$ | July 16-21 |  |
| Generally mainstream | $37 \%$ |  | $\underline{2010}$ |
| Mixed/Neither (vol.) | $57 \%$ | $42 \%$ | $43 \%$ |
| No opinion | $3 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $54 \%$ |
|  | $2 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
|  | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ |  |

## CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

| Too <br> extreme | Generally <br> mainstream | Mixed/ <br> Neither <br> (vol.) | No <br> opinion |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 33 | 62 | 2 | 3 |
| 34 | 62 | 2 | 2 |
| 26 | 67 | 3 | 4 |
| 25 | 66 | 3 | 6 |

As you may know, last year Congress and the President agreed to a program to reduce the federal deficit that some people call the "fiscal cliff." Unless Congress and the President reach an agreement within the next few weeks, tax rates will automatically rise in January for almost all Americans and major spending cuts will automatically occur next year in most government spending programs, including military programs.
21. If those automatic tax increases and spending cuts occur next year, do you think that would cause a crisis, major problems, minor problems, or no problems at all for the United States?

|  | Dec. 17-18 <br> $\underline{2012}$ | Nov. 16-18 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{2012}$ |  |
| Crisis | $20 \%$ | $24 \%$ |
| Major problems | $50 \%$ | $44 \%$ |
| Minor problems | $24 \%$ | $24 \%$ |
| Not a problem | $4 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| No opinion | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ |

FOR COMPARISON

| QUESTION WORDING: If the debt ceiling is not raised, do you think that <br> would cause a crisis, major problems, minor problems, or no problems at all <br> for the United States? |  |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | July 18-20, 2011 | Apr. 29-May 1, 2011

22. If congress and the President do not reach an agreement by the end of the year and those automatic tax increases and spending cuts occur, do you think that Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would be more responsible for that?

|  | Dec. 17-18 <br>  <br>  <br> 2012 | Nov. 16-18 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Obama | $\underline{2012}$ |  |
| Republicans | $37 \%$ | $34 \%$ |
| Both (vol.) | $11 \%$ | $45 \%$ |
| Neither (vol.) | $2 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| No opinion | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ |
|  |  | $4 \%$ |

## FOR COMPARISON

| QUESTION WORDING: If the debt ceiling is not raised, do you think that <br> Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would be more responsible for <br> that? |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\qquad$ |  |
|  |  |
| July 18-20, 2011 |  |
| Obama |  |
| Republicans | 30 |
| Both (vol.) | 51 |
| Neither (vol.) | 15 |
| No opinion | 3 |

## METHODOLOGY

A total of 620 adults were interviewed by telephone nationwide by live interviewers calling both landline and cell phones. All respondents were asked questions concerning basic demographics, and the entire sample was weighted to reflect national Census figures for gender, race, age, education, region of country, telephone usage and whether respondents own or rent their homes. Among the entire sample, $34 \%$ described themselves as Democrats, $41 \%$ described themselves as Independents, and $25 \%$ described themselves as Republicans.

Crosstabs on the following pages only include results for subgroups with enough unweighted cases to produce a sampling error of $+/-8.5$ percentage points or less. Some subgroups represent too small a share of the national population to produce crosstabs with an acceptable sampling error. Interviews were conducted among these subgroups, but results for groups with a sampling error larger than $+/-8.5$ percentage points are not displayed and instead are denoted with "N/A".

CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 1
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
Base $=$ Total Sample


* percentage less than 1\%

CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 1/1A/1B
Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Q1A. Do you approve strongly or only moderately?
Q1B. Do you disapprove strongly or only moderately?

Base = Total Sample

Approve strongly
Approve moderately
Disapprove moderately
Disapprove strongly
No opinion
Sampling Error
Approve strongly
Approve moderately
Disapprove moderately
Disapprove strongly
No opinion

| Total | Men | Women | White | Non-White | Reg. Voters |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32\% | 25\% | 38\% | 24\% | N/A | 31\% |
| 20\% | 28\% | 13\% | 20\% | N/A | 19\% |
| 9\% | 8\% | 11\% | 9\% | N/A | 9\% |
| 34\% | 36\% | 33\% | 42\% | N/A | 35\% |
| 5\% | 4\% | 5\% | 6\% | N/A | 5\% |
| +/-4.0 | +/-5.5 | +/-5.5 | +/-4.5 |  | +/-4.0 |

Approve strongly
Approve moderately
Disapprove moderately
Disapprove strongly
No opinion

| Total | $\begin{aligned} & 18- \\ & 34 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 35- \\ & 49 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50- \\ & 64 \end{aligned}$ | 65+ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Under } \\ 50 \end{gathered}$ | 50 and Older |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32\% | N/A | N/A | 43\% | 32\% | 26\% | 39\% |
| 20\% | N/A | N/A | 16\% | 10\% | 26\% | 14\% |
| 9\% | N/A | N/A | 4\% | 10\% | 11\% | 7\% |
| 34\% | N/A | N/A | 33\% | 45\% | 31\% | 38\% |
| 5\% | N/A | N/A | 3\% | 3\% | 5\% | 3\% |
| +/-4.0 |  |  | +/-7.0 | +/-7.0 | +/-6.5 | +/-5.0 |

Sampling Error
Approve strongly
Approve moderately
Disapprove moderately
Disapprove strongly
No opinion
Sampling Error
Approve strongly
Approve moderately
Disapprove moderately
Disapprove strongly
No opinion
Sampling Error

| Total | Under \$50K | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 50 \mathrm{~K} \\ & \text { or more } \end{aligned}$ | No College | Attended College |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32\% | 32\% | 30\% | 34\% | 31\% |  |  |  |
| 20\% | 27\% | 17\% | 21\% | 20\% |  |  |  |
| 9\% | 9\% | 8\% | 9\% | 9\% |  |  |  |
| 34\% | 28\% | 41\% | 31\% | 35\% |  |  |  |
| 5\% | 4\% | 4\% | 5\% | 4\% |  |  |  |
| +/-4.0 | +/-6.5 | +/-6.0 | +/-7.5 | +/-4.5 |  |  |  |
| Total | Democrat | Independent | Republican | Liberal | Moderate |  |  |
| 32\% | 66\% | 22\% | 1\% | N/A | 30\% |  |  |
| 20\% | 28\% | 21\% | 7\% | N/A | 23\% |  | \% |
| 9\% | 3\% | 12\% | 14\% | N/A | 13\% |  | \% |
| 34\% | 2\% | 37\% | 74\% | N/A | 26\% |  |  |
| 5\% | 2\% | 7\% | 4\% | N/A | 7\% |  | \% |
| +/-4.0 | +/-7.5 | +/-6.0 | +/-7.5 |  | +/-6.5 | +/-6 |  |
| Total | North east | Midwest | South | West | Urban | Suburban | Rural |
| 32\% | 37\% | 32\% | 28\% | 32\% | 40\% | 26\% | 29\% |
| 20\% | 24\% | 18\% | 15\% | 26\% | 27\% | 19\% | 14\% |
| 9\% | 8\% | 4\% | 11\% | 14\% | 9\% | 9\% | 9\% |
| 34\% | 29\% | 38\% | 42\% | 25\% | 22\% | 39\% | 41\% |
| 5\% | 3\% | 8\% | 4\% | 3\% | 2\% | 6\% | 6\% |
| +/-4.0 | +/-8.0 | +/-8.5 | +/-7.0 | +/-8.5 | +/-7.0 | +/-5.5 | +/-8.5 |

[^0]CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 3
Do you have more confidence in President Obama or in the Republicans in Congress to deal with the major issues facing the country today?

Base = Total Sample
Obama
Republicans in Congress
Both equally
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Frror
Obama
Republicans in Congress
Both equally
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error

## Obama

Republicans in Congress
Both equally
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error

## Obama

Republicans in Congress
Both equally
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error
Obama
Republicans in Congress
Both equally
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error

* percentage less than 1\%

CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 4
Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Boehner is handling his job as Speaker of the House?
Base = Total Sample


[^1]CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 9
Do you think it is good for the country or bad for the country that the Republican Party is in control of the U.S. House of Representatives?

```
Base = Total Sample
```



[^2]CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 10
If the two parties can develop bipartisan solutions of the country's problems, which party do you think should give up more of the proposals it supports -- the Democratic party or the Republican party?

Base = Total Sample
Democratic party
Republican party
No opinion

Sampling Error
Democratic party
Republican party
No opinion

Sampling Error

Democratic party
No opinion
Sampling Error
Democratic party
Republican party
No opinion
Sampling Error

Democratic party
Republican party
No opinion


[^3]CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 11A
Overall, would you describe the views and policies of each of the following as too extreme, or as generally mainstream?
A. The Republican Party

Base $=$ Total Sample


* percentage less than 1\%

CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 11B
Overall, would you describe the views and policies of each of the following as too extreme, or as generally mainstream?
B. The Democratic Party

Base $=$ Total Sample


* percentage less than 1\%

CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 21
If those automatic tax increases and spending cuts occur next year, do you think that would cause a crisis, major problems, minor problems, or no problems at all for the United States?

Base $=$ Total Sample


[^4]CNN/ORC International Poll -- December 17 to 18, 2012
Question 22
If Congress and the President do not reach an agreement by the end of the year and those automatic tax increases and spending cuts occur, do you think that Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would be more responsible for that?

Base = Total Sample
Obama
Republicans
Both
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error
Obama
Republicans
Both
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error
Obama
Republicans
Both
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error
Obama
Republicans
Both
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error

Obama
Republicans
Both
Neither
No opinion
Sampling Error


[^5]
[^0]:    * percentage less than 1\%

[^1]:    * percentage less than $1 \%$

[^2]:    * percentage less than 1\%

[^3]:    * percentage less than $1 \%$

[^4]:    * percentage less than 1\%

[^5]:    * percentage less than 1\%

