

Bloomberg News National Poll

SELZER & COMPANY
997 U.S. adults ages 18 and over
Plus 205 Republican oversample on specific questions
Margin of error: ± 3.1 percentage points

Study #2026
September 9-12, 2011
**Weighted by age, race,
and to incorporate the oversample**

Methodology

Sep 15 (Bloomberg) -- The Bloomberg National Poll, conducted Sep 9-12 for Bloomberg News by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, IA, is based on interviews with 997 U.S. adults ages 18 or older. Some questions included an oversample of 205 self-identified Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone telephone numbers. Percentages based on the full sample may have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Responses were weighted by age and race to reflect the general population based on recent census data. The questions that included the oversample were additionally weighted back to their appropriate representation in the general population. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error. Republishing the copyrighted Bloomberg National Poll without credit to Bloomberg News is prohibited.

Poll Questions

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
20	72	8

Which of the following do you see as the most important issue facing the country right now?
(Read list. Rotate.) **Ranked.**

- 46 Unemployment and jobs
- 18 Government spending
- 12 The federal deficit
- 10 Health care
- 5 The war in Afghanistan
- 3 Immigration
- 2 Taxes
- 2 Other (VOL) (specify:)
- None of these (VOL)
- 2 Not sure

The U.S. officially emerged from the recession in June 2009. Which of the following best reflects your opinion? (Read list.)

The economy is faltering and we will fall back into recession	The economy is on solid ground and we will not fall back into recession	It still feels like we are in a recession	Not sure
18	9	68	5

Are you better off or worse off than you were at the beginning of 2009?

Better off	Worse off	About the same (VOL)	Not sure
27	44	28	1

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

(Follow with:) Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing: **(Rotate options after overall presidential job approval.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
As president	45	49	6
Ranked by Approve			
With terrorism	65	26	9
With the situation in Libya	42	35	23
With health care	39	53	8
With negotiating with the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives	37	52	11
With creating jobs	36	57	7
With the economy	33	62	5
With the budget deficit	30	62	8

Now, I'd like to mention some major economic and political figures and groups. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. **(Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)**

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Barack Obama , President of the United States	21	29	19	28	3
John Boehner , the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	8	25	19	19	29
Ben Bernanke , chairman of the Federal Reserve	6	23	19	16	36
Sarah Palin , former governor of Alaska	7	19	22	44	8
Michele Bachmann , Republican candidate for president and congresswoman from Minnesota	8	20	19	29	24
Herman Cain , Republican candidate for president and former CEO of Godfather's Pizza	7	15	13	14	51
Newt Gingrich , Republican candidate for president and former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	7	21	24	31	17
Jon Huntsman , Republican candidate for president and former governor of Utah	3	14	18	14	51
Ron Paul , Republican candidate for president and congressman from Texas	8	24	23	18	27
Rick Perry , Republican candidate for president and governor of Texas	11	21	16	25	27
Mitt Romney , Republican candidate for president and former governor of Massachusetts	10	32	23	15	20
Rick Santorum , Republican candidate for president and former senator from Pennsylvania	4	13	17	18	48
The Republican Party	9	28	27	26	10
The Democratic Party	14	30	26	20	10

Which one of the following people who are or may be seeking the Republican nomination for president do you support? (Read list. Rotate. Asked only of those who say they are Republican or are Republican-leaning independents and includes an oversample; n=545. Margin of error: ±4.2 percentage points.)
Ranked.

- 26 Rick Perry
- 22 Mitt Romney
- 9 Michele Bachmann
- 8 Sarah Palin
- 8 Ron Paul
- 4 Herman Cain
- 4 Newt Gingrich
- 2 Rick Santorum
- 1 Jon Huntsman
- 6 None of these
- 10 Not sure

In the 2012 election, do you anticipate you will definitely vote for President Obama, consider voting for another candidate, or definitely vote for another candidate?

- 29 Definitely Obama
- 21 Consider voting for another candidate
- 43 Definitely vote for another candidate
- 2 Will not vote (VOL)
- 5 Not sure

Are you mostly happy with the current slate of Republican candidates, or do you wish some other candidate would get in the race? (Asked only of those who would consider or definitely vote for a candidate other than Obama; n=668. Margin of error: ±3.8 percentage points.)

- 42 Mostly happy
- 47 Wish another candidate would get in race
- 11 Not sure

If the general election for president were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama for the Democrats and [NAME FROM LIST] for the Republicans, for whom would you vote?

	Obama	Republican	Would not vote (VOL)	Not sure
Mitt Romney	48	43	4	5
Rick Perry	49	40	3	8

At any time since 2007, have you considered yourself a supporter of Barack Obama? (If yes, ask:)
How would you describe yourself now? (Read list.)

Among those
who ever
supported
Obama
(n=593)

- 44 Yes, I still support him as much as I ever did
- 37 Yes, I still support him but not as much as before
- 11 Yes, he disappointed me and I no longer support him
- 8 Yes, I am angry and now actively oppose him
- n/a Never supported him
- n/a Not sure

Do you think Barack Obama is the best candidate to face the Republican nominee in 2012 or would you like to see another candidate try for the Democratic nomination? (Asked only of Democrats and independents who lean toward Democrats; n=360.)

- 67 Obama is best candidate
- 30 Would like another candidate to try
- 3 Not sure

I'm going to mention some things some Republican candidates have said or done. For each, please tell me if it would make you more inclined or less inclined to support the candidate or if it would not matter. (Rotate. Read list.) (Full sample plus oversample of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents; n=1,202. Margin of error on these questions: ±2.8 percentage points).

Ranked by "More Inclined"	More Inclined	Less Inclined	Would not Matter	Not sure
Wants to dramatically cut the size of the federal government	55	26	15	4
Supports reducing regulations on the private sector	42	31	19	8
Says the tax system should be overhauled with three tax brackets at 8, 14, and 23 percent and eliminate all deductions	39	34	15	12
Says no tax increase is acceptable even in exchange for 10 times as much in spending cuts	29	46	16	9
Opposes gay marriage	28	45	25	2
Says there should be less separation between church and state	27	52	18	3
Says science is not settled on whether human activity is the cause of global warming	25	45	24	6
Says corporations are people	25	43	23	9
Says evolution is an unproven theory	20	50	25	5
Says virtually all abortions should be illegal no matter the circumstances	20	64	12	4
Says the Environmental Protection Agency should be abolished	19	66	11	4
Wants to abolish the Federal Reserve	15	60	15	10

Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry has called Social Security a Ponzi scheme, which is a fraud, and said it is a "monstrous lie" because young people will pay into the system but not be able to collect benefits. Do you agree or disagree?

- 46 Agree
- 50 Disagree
- 4 Not sure

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has proposed to eliminate taxes on capital gains, dividends and interest income for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$200,000 a year as part of his plan to create new jobs. Do you favor or oppose that?

- 60 Favor
- 31 Oppose
- 9 Not sure

As you think about elected officials in Washington, which of the following best describes your view: **(Read list.)**

- 26 I am angry and want to throw them all out
- 28 I am frustrated because all they do is fight
- 36 I wish they would compromise
- 8 I think they are doing the best they can
- 2 Not sure

Would you say the debate over raising the debt ceiling did or did not add to that feeling? **(Asked only of those who express negative views of elected officials in Washington; n=906.)**

- 71 Did add
- 24 Did not add
- 5 Not sure

Who do you blame most for what's gone wrong in Washington—President Obama, the Republicans in Congress, or the Democrats in Congress? **(Asked only of those who express negative views of elected officials in Washington; n=906.)**

- 20 President Obama
- 45 Republicans in Congress
- 19 Democrats in Congress
- 16 Not sure

Would you say you are hopeful or have you given up hope that Washington will get something done in the next year that will help you and your family economically?

- 54 Am hopeful
- 43 Have given up hope
- 3 Not sure

Which of the following approaches is more likely to be successful in growing the U.S. economy and creating jobs? **(Rotate.)**

Spending cuts and tax cuts will give businesses more confidence to hire	Government needs to keep spending at current level now because the job market is so weak	Government needs to spend more to stimulate the economy	Not sure
57	13	23	7

When do you expect homes in your area to return to the values they had before the recession hit in 2008—within the next two years, next three to five years, next six to 10 years, longer than 10 years from now or never?

- 10 Next two years
- 31 Next three to five years
- 29 Next six to 10 years
- 13 Longer than 10 years from now
- 12 Never
- 5 Not sure

Who do you think has laid out a better vision for a successful economic future for the U.S.—President Obama or the Republicans?

- 43 President Obama
- 41 Republicans
- 9 Neither (VOL)
- 7 Not sure

Which of the following would be the more effective approach to reduce the federal deficit and national debt: (Read list.) **Ranked.**

- 38 Cut spending especially on entitlements with no tax increase

- 31 Raise taxes and don't touch entitlements

- 17 Cut spending—especially on entitlements such as Social Security and Medicare—and increase some taxes

- 14 Not sure

I am going to mention some changes that could be made to decrease the deficit. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the change. (Read list. Rotate.)

Ranked by Favor.	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Reduce Social Security benefits for high-income earners	64	32	4
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 a year	54	40	6
Raise the amount of salary subject to Social Security tax beyond the current limit of about \$107,000	52	35	13
Gradually increase the Social Security retirement age to 69	49	48	3
Eliminate all tax deductions, including the home mortgage deduction, in return for lower tax rates for every tax bracket	48	45	7
Let tax cuts for all taxpayers expire as scheduled and return rates to previous levels	48	42	10
Cut defense weapons systems and reduce the number of armed forces personnel	41	56	3
Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance	37	57	6
Increase co-pays for Medicare recipients	33	62	5
Decrease the amount paid to hospitals and doctors who provide Medicare services	30	66	4
Cut benefits by slowing the rate of automatic cost-of-living increases for Social Security payments	29	63	8
Cut Medicaid, which is government help for medical care for low-income people	21	76	3

President Barack Obama has proposed a package of tax cuts, spending on public works and aid to local governments that will cost an estimated \$447 billion. Do you think that will or will not help lower the unemployment rate?

- 40** Will help
- 51** Will not help
- 9** Not sure

As part of his plan, the president has proposed a temporary cut in payroll taxes that both employees and employers pay, at a cost to the U.S. Treasury of \$240 billion. Do you favor or oppose this?

- 45** Favor
- 45** Oppose
- 10** Not sure

As part of it, he also has proposed sending \$35 billion in federal aid to state and local governments next year to avoid further layoffs of teachers, police officers and firefighters. Do you favor or oppose this?

- 71** Favor
- 27** Oppose
- 2** Not sure

The new congressional supercommittee will be seeking \$1.5 trillion in additional spending cuts over the next ten years. Do you think it is possible or impossible for the committee to meet its goals without cutting entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare or raising taxes?

- 36 Possible
- 59 Impossible
- 5 Not sure

Should the new supercommittee focus more on raising taxes on Americans earning more than \$250,000 or more on cutting spending on entitlement programs such as Medicare to meet its goal of trimming an additional \$1.5 trillion from the federal debt over the next decade?

- 35 Cutting entitlement programs
- 51 Raising taxes
- 14 Not sure

In your view, is the tea party today a mostly positive or mostly negative force in American politics?

- 37 Mostly positive
- 52 Mostly negative
- 11 Not sure

Turning to the health care bill passed last year, what is your opinion of the law? **(Read list.)**

It should be repealed	It may need small modifications, but we should see how it works	It should be left alone	Not sure
34	48	12	6

What is your age?

- 14 Under 25
- 18 25 to 34
- 18 35 to 44
- 18 45 to 54
- 15 55 to 64
- 17 65 and over
- Refused/not sure

In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent? **(If independent, ask:)** Do you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats, or are you totally independent?

- 23 Republican
- 8 Lean Republican
- 27 Totally independent
- 10 Lean Democrat
- 29 Democrat
- 1 Other (VOL)
- 2 Refused/not sure

Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party Movement? **(If yes, ask:)** Do you consider yourself a strong supporter, or just a supporter?

Yes, strong supporter	Yes, just a supporter	No, not a supporter	Not sure
7	20	67	6

What is the last grade of school you completed?

26 High school graduate or less
23 Some college
30 College degree
21 Postgraduate work or degree
- Refused/not sure

Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

37 Yes
63 No
- Refused/not sure

Which of the following best describes your religious beliefs—Catholic, Protestant, some other kind of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other, or none?

25 Catholic
24 Protestant
25 Some other kind of Christian
3 Jewish
1 Muslim
4 Other
15 None
3 Refused/not sure

Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or fundamentalist Christian, or not?
(Based on all, so percentages do not add to 100%.)

26 Yes
25 No
2 Not sure

If your state's Republican primary or caucus for nominating a candidate to run for president were held today, would you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

48 Definitely vote
19 Probably vote
10 Might or might not vote
21 Probably not vote
2 Refused/not sure

If the 2012 general election for President, Congress and other state officials were held today, would you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

- 72** Definitely vote
- 16** Probably vote
- 5** Might or might not vote
- 6** Probably not vote
- 1** Refused/not sure

With what racial or ethnic group do you identify most—White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, or some other group?

- 68** White
- 12** Black
- 10** Hispanic
- 4** Asian
- 2** Other
- 4** Refused/not sure

Is your total annual household income before taxes above or below \$50,000 per year?

Below
Above

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|
| Is it above or below \$25,000 per year? | 18 | Below (<\$25,000) |
| | 24 | Above (\$25,000-\$49,999) |
| Is it above or below \$100,000 per year? | 24 | Below (\$50,000-\$99,999) |
| | 27 | Above (\$100,000 or more) |
| | 7 | Refused/not sure |

Sex:

- 48** Male
- 52** Female