Ipsos Public Affairs

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Interview dates: October 7-11, 2010
Interviews: 1,038 adults; 854 registered voters; 720 likely voters
460 Democrats/Lean Democrats; 420 Republicans/Lean Republicans
Margin of error: ± 3.0% for all adults; ± 3.4% for registered voters; ± 3.7% for likely voters
± 4.6% for Democrats; ± 4.8 for Republicans (based on all adults)

Ipsos Poll conducted for Reuters, October 2010

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Reuters from October 7th-11th, 2010. For the survey, a nationally representative, randomly selected sample of exactly 1,038 adults aged 18 and older across the United States was interviewed by Ipsos via live telephone interviewing. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate within 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population in the U.S. been polled. Likely voters (reported on for ballot questions only) are defined as individuals currently registered to vote, who voted in the 2008 Presidential election, are a 7-10 on a 10-point likelihood to vote scale, and are interested in following news about the campaign 'a great deal' or 'quite a bit.' Individuals who did not vote in the 2008 Presidential election qualify as likely voters if they are registered to vote, are an 8-10 on a 10-point likelihood to vote scale, and are interested in following news about the campaign 'a great deal' or 'quite a bit.' Out of our sample of 1,038 adults, 720 are likely voters. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate within ±3.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population in the U.S. been polled.

All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. These data were weighted to ensure that the sample composition reflects that of the actual U.S. population according to U.S. Census figures. Respondents had the option to be interviewed in English or Spanish. Please note that throughout this document, figures based on Independent voters are indicative only due to very small sample size. Figures marked by an asterisk (*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of a per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

POLITICAL TRACKER

1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track? ENTER SINGLE RESPONSE. IF UNSURE, ENCOURAGE BEST GUESS.

	Right direction	Wrong track	(Not sure)
2/6-9/09	42	50	8
3/5-9/09	44	48	8
4/2-6/09	45	48	7
4/30-5/3/09	55	38	7
6/4-8/09	52	42	6
7/9-13/09	40	54	6
7/30-8/3/09	46	48	6
8/27-31/09	40	54	6
10/1-5/09	40	56	5
10/29-11/1/09	38	57	4
12/3-6/09	36	60	4
1/7-11/10	39	55	6
1/28-31/10	37	57	5
2/26-28/10	34	60	6
4/1-5/10	40	54	5
5/6-9/10	34	60	6
6/10-13/10	33	61	6
7/22-25/10	34	60	6
8/19-22/10	31	62	7
9/16-19/10	33	61	5
10/7-11/10	31	63	6

2. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today? IF NECESSARY, PROBE:) If you had to choose, which would you say is the most important problem facing the U.S. today? OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

	10/7-11/10	*7/22-25/10*	*4/1-5/10*	*1/7-11/2010*	*10/1-5/09*	*2/5-9/09*
ECONOMY (NET)	**49**	**48**	**47**	**48**	**46**	**76**
Economy (unspecified)	26	28	25	28	33	50
Unemployment, lack of jobs	22	19	21	19	12	20
Other economy issues	1	1	1	1	1	5
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (NET)	**8**	**9**	**11**	**14**	**10**	**7**
War (Subnet)	4	5	5	7	5	4
- War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq)	0	0	0	1	1	1
- Wars, unrest throughout the world	4	5	5	6	4	3
Immigration	3	4	3	1	1	1
Terrorism, terrorist attacks	*	0	1	4	1	1
Other foreign affairs issues	*	1	1	1	2	1
DOMESTIC ISSUES (NET) (excl. Econ)	**27**	**24**	**29**	**31**	**34**	**11**
Healthcare	3	3	8	9	14	2
Political Leaders	2	8	6	7	4	1
Energy Crisis	*	2	1	-	-	-
Morality	6	4	4	3	3	3
Education	1	1	2	1	2	1
Crime/Drugs	2	0	0	-	1	-
Environment	1	0	0	-	1	-
Other Domestic Issues	6	1	7	10	8	2
Government spending / deficit / budget	7	4	-	-	-	-
OTHER	**7**	**10**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**5**
Nothing	*	-	-	-	-	-
(Not sure)	9	9	8	2	2	1

3. a. Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF APPR./ DIS., ASK Q3b. IF MIXED / DK / REF, ASK Q3c
b. Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)?
c. If you had to choose, do you lean more towards approve or disapprove?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approval	Still have mixed feelings	Lean toward disapproval	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	(Not sure)	**TOTAL Approve**	**TOTAL Disapprove**	Mean Rating
2/6- 9/09	38	19	13	3	10	4	12	1	**69**	**26**	5.1
3/5 -9/09	39	15	10	5	8	5	17	1	**65**	**29**	4.9
4/2-6/09	35	18	9	4	9	4	20	0	**63**	**33**	4.7
4/30-5/3/09	40	17	8	2	9	3	19	1	**65**	**31**	4.9
6/4-8/09	40	14	10	3	9	7	16	1	**64**	**32**	4.9
7/9-13/09	29	17	11	3	11	6	22	1	**57**	**38**	4.4
7/30-8/3/09	32	17	9	4	8	5	24	1	**58**	**37**	4.5
8/27-31/09	31	16	9	3	8	3	28	1	**56**	**40**	4.4
10/1-5/09	30	12	14	3	12	5	23	1	**56**	**40**	4.4
10/29-1/1/09	23	17	14	2	14	4	25	1	**53**	**43**	4.2
12/3-6/09	25	12	12	2	15	6	27	1	**49**	**49**	4
1/7-11/10	27	15	11	2	12	5	28	0	**52**	**45**	4.1
1/28-31/10	22	13	14	3	13	6	27	1	**50**	**46**	4
2/26-28/10	25	18	11	2	13	7	25	1	**53**	**44**	4.2
4/1-5/10	25	16	10	2	14	5	27	1	**51**	**46**	4.1
5/6-9/10	20	17	15	3	13	4	27	1	**52**	**43**	4.1
6/10-13/10	23	13	14	4	14	4	26	1	**50**	**45**	4.1
7/22-25/10	24	12	13	2	12	6	31	1	**48**	**48**	3.9
8/19-22/10	20	13	12	2	16	7	29	1	**45**	**52**	3.8
9/16-19/10	24	12	10	2	14	4	31	2	**47**	**50**	3.9
10/7-11/10	22	10	10	3	14	9	31	1	**43**	**53**	3.7

CONTINUED

a. Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF APPR./ DIS., ASK Q3b. IF MIXED / DK / REF, ASK Q3c
b. Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)?
c. If you had to choose, do you lean more towards approve or disapprove?

	DEMOCRATS: Approve	DEMOCRATS: Disapprove	INDEPENDENTS: Approve	INDEPENDENTS: Disapprove	REPUBLICANS: Approve	REPUBLICANS: Disapprove
2/6- 9/09	92	6	70	19	34	60
3/5 -9/09	89	8	58	31	29	66
4/2-6/09	91	6	57	21	26	72
4/30-5/3/09	95	4	56	34	29	67
6/4-8/09	89	10	58	31	27	67
7/9-13/09	84	13	50	36	24	73
7/30-8/3/09	82	15	57	34	24	70
8/27-31/09	88	10	54	37	18	78
10/1-5/09	86	12	47	41	18	80
10/29-1/1/09	82	15	45	41	21	78
12/3-6/09	77	21	41	55	16	81
1/7-11/10	81	17	49	46	18	80
1/28-31/10	79	19	53	31	19	79
2/26-28/10	80	18	54	42	23	75
4/1-5/10	84	14	40	50	16	83
5/6-9/10	84	14	40	47	18	80
6/10-13/10	82	15	47	39	13	84
7/22-25/10	76	21	52	41	14	84
8/19-22/10	74	24	37	53	11	86
9/16-19/10	78	20	47	37	11	87
10/7-11/10	70	27	41	48	14	83

4. I know it is a long way off, but thinking about the elections in 2010, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live? IF ANOTHER PARTY/WILL/DO NOT PLAN TO VOTE/DK/REF ASK 4a
a. If you had to choose, would you lean more towards the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

ALL RESPONDENTS	Initial Democratic candidate	Lean Democratic candidate	**TOTAL Democratic candidate**	Initial Republican candidate	Lean Republican candidate	**TOTAL Republican candidate**	(Candidate from another political party)	(Will not / do not plan to vote)	(Not sure)
10/29-1/1/09	43	5	**48**	36	6	**41**	2	3	6
2/26-28/10	44	5	**50**	34	5	**40**	1	3	6
4/1-5/10	41	6	**47**	38	4	**42**	1	3	7
5/6-9/10	40	7	**46**	33	5	**39**	2	4	9
6/10-13/10	38	5	**43**	35	6	**41**	1	5	10
7/22-25/10	42	4	**47**	36	5	**42**	2	2	8
8/19-22/10	39	6	**45**	38	6	**43**	1	3	8
9/16-19/10	43	5	**47**	39	4	**42**	2	1	7
10/7-11/10	36	7	**43**	38	6	**44**	1	3	8

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I know it is a long way off, but thinking about the elections in 2010, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live? IF ANOTHER PARTY/WILL/DO NOT PLAN TO VOTE/DK/REF ASK 4a

a. If you had to choose, would you lean more towards the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY (854)	Initial Democratic candidate	Lean Democratic candidate	**TOTAL Democratic candidate**	Initial Republican candidate	Lean Republican candidate	**TOTAL Republican candidate**	(Candidate from another political party)	(Will not / do not plan to vote)	(Not sure)
10/29-1/1/09	42	4	**46**	39	6	**45**	2	2	5
2/26-28/10	43	5	**47**	37	6	**43**	1	2	6
4/1-5/10	39	6	**45**	42	4	**46**	1	2	6
5/6-9/10	39	6	**45**	38	5	**42**	2	2	8
6/10-13/10	38	4	**42**	38	5	**43**	1	3	11
7/22-25/10	40	4	**44**	41	5	**46**	2	2	6
8/19-22/10	40	5	**45**	40	5	**46**	1	2	6
9/16-19/10	41	4	**46**	41	4	**45**	2	1	6
10/7-11/10	38	6	**44**	40	6	**46**	2	2	6

LIKELY VOTERS ONLY (720)	Initial Democratic candidate	Lean Democratic candidate	**TOTAL Democratic candidate**	Initial Republican candidate	Lean Republican candidate	**TOTAL Republican candidate**	(Candidate from another political party)	(Will not / do not plan to vote)	(Not sure)
10/7-11/10	40	4	**44**	43	4	**48**	1	1	6

5. I'd like you to think now about what Congress should focus on next year in 2011. For each issue, please tell me if you think it is crucial, important, or not important for Congress to focus on as a key issue in 2011. RANDOMIZE

	Crucial	Important	Not important	DK / Ref	**TOTAL: Crucial + Important**
Jobs	65	32	3	1	**97**
The budget deficit	56	35	7	2	**91**
Healthcare	48	43	9	*	**91**
Taxes	37	52	9	2	**89**
Energy	30	58	11	2	**88**
The environment	26	56	17	1	**82**
Afghanistan	35	44	17	4	**79**

6. a. I am going to read out a list of economic indicators. For you personally, which of the following do you think is the BEST indicator that the economy is improving? READ LIST
b. And which is second best? DO NOT SHOW RESPONSE FROM Q6a

	CURRENT SURVEY		*JULY 2010*	
	Best	Total	*Best*	*Total*
The unemployment rate goes down over a few months	35	52	*30*	*46*
I hear that someone who I know who lost their job found a new one	12	25	*12*	*24*
The stock market makes continuous large scale gains over several weeks	9	24	*7*	*21*
The Dollar is strong compared to other currencies	10	21	*14*	*26*
The price of homes in my community start to rise	8	21	*9*	*25*
The President says that we have turned a corner and that there are better days ahead	8	15	*9*	*15*
More media stories saying the economy is improving	4	10	*4*	*10*
Don't know / not sure	14	14	*14*	*14*

7. a. As far as you know or recall, did the size of the yearly US budget deficit, otherwise known as government debt, increase, decrease or stay the same during **Bill Clinton's** time as President?
b. And as far as you know or recall, did the size of the yearly US budget deficit, otherwise known as government debt, increase, decrease or stay the same during **George W. Bush's** time as President?
c. And as far as you know, has the size of the yearly US budget deficit, otherwise known as government debt, increased, decreased, or stayed the same since **Barack Obama** has become President?

	CURRENT SURVEY			*JULY 2010*		
	Clinton	Bush	Obama	*Clinton*	*Bush*	*Obama*
Increased	31	70	67	*30*	*75*	*70*
Decreased	38	13	10	*45*	*11*	*10*
Stayed the same	17	11	18	*16*	*11*	*17*
(Don't know / Refused / Not sure)	13	5	5	*9*	*4*	*3*

Likely Voter Questions

8. Are you currently registered to vote at this address, or not?

Yes	77
No	22
(Not sure)	*

9. Sometimes things come up and people are not able to vote. In the 2008 election for President, did you happen to vote?

	All	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	75	73	83	62
No	24	26	17	37
(Not sure)	1	1	*	0

[ALL WHO DID NOT VOTE IN 2008 AT Q9: BASE = 195]
10. Why not? DO NOT READ RESPONSE

Not registered, too busy, something came up	57
Did not live in state/district at the time	9
Too young to vote at the time	7
(Other)	19
(Not sure)	7

11. On November 2nd, the Congressional elections will be held. Using a 1-to-10 scale, where 10 means you are completely certain you will vote and 1 means you are completely certain you will NOT vote, how likely are you to vote in the upcoming Congressional election? You can use any number between 1 and 10, to indicate how strongly you feel about your likelihood to vote. ENTER SINGLE RESPONSE.

	All	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
1	11	9	8	24
2	1	2	*	1
3	1	2	*	2
4	1	*	2	1
5	6	7	5	8
6	2	3	1	1
7	3	4	4	1
8	8	8	8	5
9	6	8	5	4
10	58	56	64	48
(Not sure)	2	1	1	5
Mean	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.4**	**6.8**
1-3 (Net)	**14**	**13**	**9**	**27**
8-10 (Net)	**72**	**72**	**77**	**57**

[ASK ALL WHO ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE: BASE = 854]

12. How much interest do you have in following news about the upcoming Congressional election? A great deal, quite a bit, only some, very little, or no interest at all?

	All	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
A great deal	40	39	43	31
Quite a bit	25	27	27	14
Only some	18	17	19	20
Very little	9	10	6	13
No interest at all	7	6	5	18
(Not sure)	1	1	*	3
TOTAL: A great deal / Quite a bit	**65**	**65**	**70**	**45**
TOTAL: Very little / No interest at all	**16**	**16**	**11**	**31**

PARTY AFFILIATION / IDEOLOGY

a. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?
IF "DEMOCRAT" ASK Qb. IF "REPUBLICAN" ASK Qc. IF "INDEP." / "NONE ASK Qd.

b. Do you lean strongly or only moderately toward the Democratic Party?

c. Do you lean strongly or only moderately toward the Republican Party?

d. Do your beliefs tend to lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	Likely voters	Registered voters
Strongly Democrat	21	17
Moderately Democrat	11	10
Lean Democrat	11	16
Strongly Republican	16	13
Moderately Republican	10	9
Lean Republican	19	18
Independent (No lean)	11	15
Initial Democrats	**32**	**28**
Total Democrats	**43**	**44**
Initial Republicans	**26**	**23**
Total Republicans	**46**	**41**