Ipsos Public Affairs

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Interview dates: December 8-12, 2011
Interviews: 1,102 adults; 921 registered voters
532 Democrats; 443 Republicans; 127 Independents
Margin of Error: ±3.0 for all adults; ±3.2 for registered voters; ±4.3 for Democrats; ±4.7 for Republicans; ±9.0 for Independents (based on all adults)

Ipsos Poll conducted for Reuters, December 2011

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Reuters from December 8th-12th, 2011. For the survey, a nationally representative, randomly selected sample of exactly 1,102 adults aged 18 and older across the United States was interviewed by Ipsos via live telephone interviewing on landlines and cell phones. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate within 3 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 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. Responses are based on the full sample of adults unless otherwise noted.

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?

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	(Not Sure)
12/8-12/11	27	69	5
10/31-11/3/11	25	70	5
10/6-10/11	21	74	5
9/8-12/11	25	68	7
8/4-8/11	21	73	5
7/8-11/11	31	63	6
6/3-6/11	35	60	5
5/5-9/11	38	56	6
4/7-10/11	25	69	6
3/3-6/11	31	64	5
2/4-7/11	38	57	5
1/7-10/11	36	59	6
12/2-5/10	29	62	9
10/28-31/10	33	62	5
10/7-11/10	31	63	6
9/16-19/10	33	61	5
8/19-22/10	31	62	7
7/22-25/10	34	60	6
6/10-13/10	33	61	6
5/6-9/10	34	60	6
4/1-5/10	40	54	5
2/26-28/10	34	60	6
1/28-31/10	37	57	5
1/7-11/10	39	55	6

CONTINUED

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	(Not Sure)
12/3-6/09	36	60	4
10/29-11/1/09	38	57	4
10/1-5/09	40	56	5
8/27-31/09	40	54	6
7/30-8/3/09	46	48	6
7/9-13/09	40	54	6
6/4-8/09	52	42	6
4/30-5/3/09	55	38	7
4/2-6/09	45	48	7
3/5-9/09	44	48	8
2/6-9/09	42	50	8

2. a. Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF APPROVE/ DISAPPROVE, ASK b. IF MIXED FEELINGS/DK/REF, ASK c
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
12/8-12/11*	21	17	9	4	7	10	32	1	**47**	**48**	3.9
10/31-11/3/11*	22	18	9	2	7	10	32	*	**49**	**50**	3.9
10/6-10/11*	20	17	10	3	6	10	34	*	**47**	**50**	3.8
9/8-12/11	22	12	13	2	14	6	28	2	**47**	**48**	3.9
8/4-8/11	20	11	13	2	15	8	29	1	**45**	**52**	3.8
7/8-11/11	22	14	13	3	13	6	27	1	**49**	**46**	4.0
6/3-6/11	24	14	13	2	14	6	26	2	**50**	**46**	4.1
5/5-9/11	26	14	9	3	15	7	24	1	**49**	**47**	4.1
4/7-10/11	20	12	15	3	12	9	28	1	**46**	**49**	3.8
3/3-6/11	23	13	14	3	13	7	26	1	**49**	**47**	4.0
2/4-7/11	23	14	14	2	16	5	25	1	**51**	**46**	4.1
1/7-10/11	24	13	13	3	15	7	25	*	**50**	**47**	4.1
12/2-5/10	23	11	11	6	12	8	26	2	**45**	**46**	4.0
10/28-31/10	26	10	9	3	14	6	31	1	**45**	**51**	3.9
10/7-11/10	22	10	10	3	14	9	31	1	**43**	**53**	3.7
9/16-19/10	24	12	10	2	14	4	31	2	**47**	**50**	3.9
8/19-22/10	20	13	12	2	16	7	29	1	**45**	**52**	3.8
7/22-25/10	24	12	13	2	12	6	31	1	**48**	**48**	3.9
6/10-13/10	23	13	14	4	14	4	26	1	**50**	**45**	4.1
5/6-9/10	20	17	15	3	13	4	27	1	**52**	**43**	4.1
4/1-5/10	25	16	10	2	14	5	27	1	**51**	**46**	4.1
2/26-28/10	25	18	11	2	13	7	25	1	**53**	**44**	4.2
1/28-31/10	22	13	14	3	13	6	27	1	**50**	**46**	4
1/7-11/10	27	15	11	2	12	5	28	0	**52**	**45**	4.1
12/3-6/09	25	12	12	2	15	6	27	1	**49**	**49**	4
10/29-1/1/09	23	17	14	2	14	4	25	1	**53**	**43**	4.2
10/1-5/09	30	12	14	3	12	5	23	1	**56**	**40**	4.4
8/27-31/09	31	16	9	3	8	3	28	1	**56**	**40**	4.4
7/30-8/3/09	32	17	9	4	8	5	24	1	**58**	**37**	4.5
7/9-13/09	29	17	11	3	11	6	22	1	**57**	**38**	4.4
6/4-8/09	40	14	10	3	9	7	16	1	**64**	**32**	4.9
4/30-5/3/09	40	17	8	2	9	3	19	1	**65**	**31**	4.9
4/2-6/09	35	18	9	4	9	4	20	0	**63**	**33**	4.7
3/5 -9/09	39	15	10	5	8	5	17	1	**65**	**29**	4.9
2/6- 9/09	38	19	13	3	10	4	12	1	**69**	**26**	5.1

**For this wave, Ipsos utilized a split sample and combined the results in this table. Split Frame 1: Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?; Split Frame 2: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?*

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APPROVAL BY PARTY ID

	DEMOCRATS: Approve	DEMOCRATS: Disapprove	INDEPENDENTS: Approve	INDEPENDENTS Disapprove	REPUBLICANS: Approve	REPUBLICANS: Disapprove
12/8-12/11*	77	19	34	51	15	83
10/31-11/3/11*	77	22	39	53	17	82
10/6-10/11*	74	23	44	49	9	90
9/8-12/11	77	19	42	43	13	86
8/4-8/11	71	27	47	44	9	88
7/8-11/11	83	14	39	51	15	82
6/3-6/11	78	18	44	46	18	80
5/5-9/11	82	15	41	48	17	80
4/7-10/11	73	23	37	53	17	80
3/3-6/11	80	16	37	53	15	82
2/4-7/11	79	19	47	47	18	81
1/7-10/11	77	20	50	45	17	80
12/2-5/10	71	22	42	37	12	83
10/28-31/10	76	22	42	49	13	82
10/7-11/10	70	27	41	48	14	83
9/16-19/10	78	20	47	37	11	87
8/19-22/10	74	24	37	53	11	86
7/22-25/10	76	21	52	41	14	84
6/10-13/10	82	15	47	39	13	84
5/6-9/10	84	14	40	47	18	80
4/1-5/10	84	14	40	50	16	83
2/26-28/10	80	18	54	42	23	75
1/28-31/10	79	19	53	31	19	79
1/7-11/10	81	17	49	46	18	80
12/3-6/09	77	21	41	55	16	81
10/29-1/1/09	82	15	45	41	21	78
10/1-5/09	86	12	47	41	18	80
8/27-31/09	88	10	54	37	18	78
7/30-8/3/09	82	15	57	34	24	70
7/9-13/09	84	13	50	36	24	73
6/4-8/09	89	10	58	31	27	67
4/30-5/3/09	95	4	56	34	29	67
4/2-6/09	91	6	57	21	26	72
3/5 -9/09	89	8	58	31	29	66
2/6- 9/09	92	6	70	19	34	60

**For this wave, Ipsos utilized a split sample and combined the results in this table. Split Frame 1: Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?; Split Frame 2: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?*

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION COVERAGE

3. The 2012 elections are next year. 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? *(ASK ALL UNSURE/DK/OTHER: If you had to choose, would you lean more towards the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?*

REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY [n = c. 900]

	Democrats	Republicans	(Other party)	(Not voting)	(DK/NS)
12/8-12/11	48	42	1	2	7
10/31-11/3/11	48	43	1	2	6
10/6-10/11	48	40	2	2	8

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PRESIDENTIAL HEAD-TO-HEAD

4. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and [INSERT CANDIDATE BELOW AND ROTATE LIST], the Republican, for whom would you vote? *(ASK ALL 'UNSURE/DK/OTHER': Would you lean toward Obama or toward [CANDIDATE]?)*

REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY [n = c. 900]

		Barack Obama	[Republican candidate]	Wouldn't vote (VOL)	None / Other (VOL)	DK / Ref (VOL)	**Obama lead over Republican Candidate**
Mitt Romney	12/8-12/11	48	40	3	6	3	**+8**
	10/31-11/3/11	43	44	2	5	5	**-1**
	9/8-12/11	49	43	2	4	3	**+6**
	5/5-9/11	48	40	1	6	4	**+8**
Newt Gingrich	12/8-12/11	51	38	3	5	4	**+13**
Rick Perry	12/8-12/11	50	37	3	7	4	**+13**
	10/31-11/3/11	47	41	2	6	4	**+8**
	9/8-12/11	50	42	1	3	4	**+8**

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

5. If the 2012 Republican presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote?

ALL INDEPENDENTS & REPUBLICANS [n = c. 500]

	Mitt Romney	Jon Huntsman	Newt Gingrich	Michelle Bachmann	Ron Paul	Rick Perry	Rick Santorum	(Wouldn't vote)	(None/ other)	(DK/ REF)
12/8-12/11	18	4	25	8	12	12	4	*	6	10
10/6-10/11	21	2	7	5	12	9	NA	3	9	13
6/3-6/11	18	2	4	5	8	5	NA	1	30	18

REPUBLICANS ONLY [n = c. 440])

	Mitt Romney	Jon Huntsman	Newt Gingrich	Michelle Bachmann	Ron Paul	Rick Perry	Rick Santorum	(Wouldn't vote)	(None/ other)	(DK/ REF)
12/8-12/11	18	5	28	10	12	12	4	0	4	8
10/6-10/11	23	2	7	5	13	10	NA	2	7	13
6/3-6/11	20	2	6	6	7	6	NA	1	30	13

6. Regardless of your personal preference, if the Republican Presidential Primaries came down to these two candidates, for which one would you vote?

	Mitt Romney	Newt Gingrich	(DK/ REF)
Republicans & Independents *(n=510)*	38	48	14
Republicans only *(n=443)*	39	52	10

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DEFICIT REDUCTION

The next question is about economic issues

7. There are a number of different solutions being discussed for reducing this deficit. These include cutting existing programs, raising taxes, or some combination of the two. Which approach do you think is best? *(ASK ALL 'COMBINATION': If you had to choose, which approach do you think is best?)*

	Cut existing programs	Mix: more cuts	Mix: both	Mix: more tax	Raise taxes	Neither (VOL)	DK/REF (VOL)
12/8-12/11	22	20	4	19	11	22	2
6/3-6/11	26	22	5	19	13	12	3
5/5-9/11	27	25	5	21	9	10	2

Total by Party ID

		Cut existing programs	Mix: more cuts	Mix: both	Mix: more tax	Raise taxes	Neither (VOL)	DK/REF (VOL)
Democrats	12/8-12/11	10	17	4	31	16	21	2
	6/3-6/11	14	20	5	28	20	8	3
	5/5-9/11	12	23	6	33	15	8	3
Republicans	12/8-12/11	38	26	3	7	6	20	*
	6/3-6/11	43	24	5	9	6	9	3
	5/5-9/11	46	28	2	10	3	9	1
Independents	12/8-12/11	16	14	9	13	8	33	7
	6/3-6/11	19	20	9	16	8	18	6
	5/5-9/11	19	26	8	18	8	18	2

8. As you may know, the US federal budget has a significant deficit. Here are the main expenses of the government. In your view, which of the following areas can we afford to cut back on?

Defense spending	35
Alternative energy development	30
Law enforcement	14
Education spending	11
Medicare benefits	8
Social Security benefits	8
Other	23
None	16
(DK/NS)	1

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DEMOGRAPHICS

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

Yes	77
No	22
(Not sure)	1

B. PARTY IDENTIFICATION

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?

Strongly Democrat	19
Moderately Democrat	9
Lean Democrat	19
Strongly Republican	13
Moderately Republican	8
Lean Republican	16
Independent (No lean)	15
Initial Democrats	**28**
Total Democrats	**47**
Initial Republicans	**22**
Total Republicans	**38**

C. To what extent, if at all, do you personally identify with the ideals of the Tea Party movement?

	Total	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Identify with them strongly	10	4	4	20
Identify with them	13	4	11	23
Identify with them a little	30	28	28	32
Do not identify with them at all	40	56	38	19
(DK/NS)	8	7	19	6
TOTAL: Identify at least a little	**53**	**36**	**43**	**75**