

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 3-8, 2013
N=2,001**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 6-7, 12-14, 16-22 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 3-5, 8-11, 15, 23-29****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=977]:**

On a different subject,

Q.30F1 Over the past year, do you think the country has made progress reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

Dec 3-8

2013

29	Country has made progress reducing federal budget deficit
66	No, country has not made progress reducing the federal budget deficit
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=977]:

Q.31F1 In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on **[RANDOMIZE: Cutting major programs / Increasing taxes]** mostly focus on **[increasing taxes / cutting major programs]** or should we do a combination of both?

Dec 3-8		Dec 5-9	Sep 12-16	Nov 9-14	Jul 20-24	Apr 7-10	Dec 1-5
<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
20	Cutting major programs	11	16	17	19	20	16
7	Increasing taxes	7	6	8	8	6	4
63	Combination of both	74	69	62	60	64	65
1	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	*	1
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	8	11	12	9	13

NO QUESTION 32**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**Q.33F2 If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?

Dec 3-8		Dec 5-9	Jun 7-17	Sep 22-Oct 4	Aug 17-21	Jun 15-19	Feb 2-7
<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>
44	Spending to help the economy recover	45	48	47	47	42	46
49	Reducing the budget deficit	49	47	48	46	52	49
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	5	5	7	6	5

TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

*If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?*

	Nov 4-7	Jul 15-18	Feb 3-9	Jul 22-26	Jun 18-21
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u> ¹	<u>2009</u>
Spending more to help the economy recover	43	51	47	53	48
Reducing the budget deficit	50	40	47	38	46
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	9	6	9	6

¹ Jul 22-26, 2009 question was asked as part of a list that included items on: spending on education, spending on health care and spending to develop energy technology.

RANDOMIZE Q34F2/Q35F2/Q36F2**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**

Q.34F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping spending for programs that help the poor and needy at current levels?

Dec 3-8

2013

33	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit
59	Keeping spending for programs that help the poor and needy at current levels
4	Both equally (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE Q34F2/Q35F2/Q36F2**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**

Q.35F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping military spending at current levels?

Dec 3-8

2013

51	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit
40	Keeping military spending at current levels
4	Both equally (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE Q34F2/Q35F2/Q36F2**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,024]:**

Q.36F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

Dec 3-8

2013

23	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit
69	Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are
4	Both equally (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON (PREVIOUSLY ASKED AS A STANDALONE QUESTION)²:

What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit	Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 13-17, 2013	32	57	8	3
Nov 28-Dec 5, 2012 (SDT) ³	32	56	8	5
Aug 16-19, 2012	33	51	11	5
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	35	58	2	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	32	60	4	5
February, 1995	24	70	2	4

NO QUESTIONS 37-44, 46, 49, 52-53, 60, 62-66, 72-79, 89-93, 96-97

QUESTIONS 45, 47-48, 50-51, 54-59, 61, 67-69, 80-88, 94-95 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS 70-71, 98 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

² March 2013 and earlier trends not directly comparable to Q.36F2 because item was not previously asked in randomized block with other questions testing tradeoffs between deficit reduction and other areas of spending.

³ Nov 28-Dec 5, 2012 question began, "Now thinking about some issues that have been in the news lately. In your opinion, what is more important" and rotated the two items.

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Yearly Totals								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=896]:

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁴	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

⁴ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(SDT)

Pew Research Social and Demographic Trends
