



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Three out of ten Americans say Republicans in Congress are to blame if the federal government shuts down

A new Ipsos/Reuters poll finds almost two-thirds of Americans are concerned about a possible government shutdown

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, September 30, 2021— A new Ipsos/Reuters poll finds three out of five Americans are concerned about the federal government shutting down if Congress fails to settle on a funding plan by October 1. A similar proportion is concerned about the federal government's inability to reach an agreement to raise the debt ceiling. Concern for both is primarily driven by Democrats (74% over government shutdown and 78% over debt ceiling), compared to Republicans (50% concerned over a possible government shutdown and 53% concerned over the debt ceiling). A plurality (30%) says Republicans in Congress would be to blame if a deal isn't reached. On the question of consequences, most would support Congress passing a spending bill if it provided assistance to victims of natural disasters (75%), raised taxes on the wealthy (67%), and if it keeps the federal government open past Friday (68%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 28-29, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

Some of the results of this survey are trended against previous Ipsos polls conducted December 21-25, 2018, January 1-7, 2019, and January 8-14, 2019 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For the December 2018 survey, a sample of roughly 2,776 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. For the January 1-7, 2019 survey, a sample of roughly 2,203 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. For the January 8-14, 2019 survey, a sample of roughly 3,338 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:



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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. With which political party do you most identify? Summary

	Total (N=1,005)	Democrats (N=433)	Republicans (N=369)	Independents (N=128)
Democrat	41%	100%	-	-
Republican	35%	-	100%	-
Independent	16%	-	-	100%
None of these/Don't know	8%	-	-	-

2. So far, the U.S. Congress has been unable to reach an agreement on a spending bill that would fund the federal government. If Congress fails to settle on a plan to keep the government funded by October 1, the federal government will shut down. How concerned, if at all, are you about this issue?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very concerned	26%	36%	18%	26%
Somewhat concerned	35%	38%	32%	37%
Not very concerned	15%	14%	17%	11%
Not at all concerned	16%	7%	25%	18%
Don't know	8%	4%	9%	9%
<i>Total concerned (net)</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>63%</i>
<i>Total not concerned (net)</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>28%</i>

3. So far, the U.S. Congress has been unable to reach an agreement on raising the limit on America's debt. If an agreement is not reached by mid-October the federal government will run out of the cash it needs to pay its bills on time. How concerned, if at all, are you about this issue?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very concerned	32%	39%	23%	36%
Somewhat concerned	33%	39%	30%	30%
Not very concerned	12%	10%	15%	12%
Not at all concerned	15%	7%	23%	16%
Don't know	8%	5%	9%	6%
<i>Total concerned (net)</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>66%</i>
<i>Total not concerned (net)</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>28%</i>

4. Who would you say most deserves blame if a deal is not reached, causing the federal government to shut down?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Democrats in Congress	21%	12%	38%	13%
Republicans in Congress	30%	56%	9%	20%
President Biden	16%	6%	28%	18%
Other	9%	7%	8%	12%
Unsure	24%	19%	18%	36%





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4. Who would you say most deserves blame if a deal is not reached, causing the federal government to shut down?

Trending	Total	Jan 8-14, 2019 (N=3,338)	Jan 1-7, 2019 (N=2,203)	Dec 21-25, 2018 (N=2,440)
Democrats in Congress	21%	34%	32%	33%
Republicans in Congress	30%	6%	7%	7%
President Biden [President Trump in 2019]	16%	51%	51%	47%
Other	9%	9%	11%	12%
Unsure	24%	-	-	-

5. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements when it comes to raising the debt ceiling and passing a bill to avoid a government shutdown on October 1.

Total Agree Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Republicans and Democrats in Congress must reach a deal on the debt ceiling because defaulting would be extremely detrimental to the U.S. economy.	65%	77%	57%	64%
Republicans and Democrats in Congress must reach a deal on the debt ceiling because defaulting would put added financial stress on families like mine.	62%	73%	54%	60%
Republicans and Democrats must reach a deal on federal spending because shutting the government down would hurt the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	59%	76%	44%	57%
The debt ceiling issue is being overblown; the consequences of a default will not be as severe as people are saying.	32%	32%	37%	29%
It is OK if Republicans and Democrats in Congress do not reach a deal on the debt ceiling because defaulting would teach our country an important lesson.	26%	17%	41%	21%

a. Republicans and Democrats in Congress must reach a deal on the debt ceiling because defaulting would be extremely detrimental to the U.S. economy.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	32%	43%	24%	29%
Somewhat agree	33%	33%	32%	35%
Somewhat disagree	11%	9%	13%	11%
Strongly disagree	7%	4%	10%	6%
Don't know	18%	11%	20%	19%
Total Agree (Net)	65%	77%	57%	64%
Total Disagree (Net)	17%	13%	23%	17%



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5. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements when it comes to raising the debt ceiling and passing a bill to avoid a government shutdown on October 1.

b. Republicans and Democrats in Congress must reach a deal on the debt ceiling because defaulting would put added financial stress on families like mine.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	30%	40%	22%	27%
Somewhat agree	32%	33%	32%	33%
Somewhat disagree	12%	12%	15%	8%
Strongly disagree	7%	4%	12%	9%
Don't know	18%	12%	19%	22%
<i>Total Agree (Net)</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>Total Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>17%</i>

c. It is OK if Republicans and Democrats in Congress do not reach a deal on the debt ceiling because defaulting would teach our country an important lesson.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	10%	6%	17%	10%
Somewhat agree	16%	12%	24%	11%
Somewhat disagree	21%	24%	19%	21%
Strongly disagree	35%	49%	20%	36%
Don't know	18%	10%	19%	22%
<i>Total Agree (Net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Total Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>57%</i>

d. The debt ceiling issue is being overblown; the consequences of a default will not be as severe as people are saying.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	10%	9%	12%	10%
Somewhat agree	22%	23%	24%	19%
Somewhat disagree	24%	25%	23%	23%
Strongly disagree	21%	26%	19%	18%
Don't know	23%	17%	21%	31%
<i>Total Agree (Net)</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>Total Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>41%</i>

e. Republicans and Democrats must reach a deal on federal spending because shutting the government down would hurt the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	28%	41%	17%	27%
Somewhat agree	30%	35%	27%	30%
Somewhat disagree	13%	11%	19%	10%
Strongly disagree	10%	5%	17%	10%
Don't know	18%	8%	20%	23%
<i>Total Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Total Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>20%</i>

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6. Would you support or oppose Congress passing a spending bill if it did any of the following...

Total Support Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Provides assistance to victims of recent natural disasters, like hurricanes and wildfires	75%	87%	69%	69%
Keeps the federal government open past October 1, 2021	68%	83%	59%	66%
Raises taxes on the wealthy	67%	87%	46%	65%
Suspends the debt limit until December 2022	44%	58%	32%	40%
Provides assistance to Afghan refugees	43%	68%	23%	33%

a. Raises taxes on the wealthy

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly support	43%	64%	22%	38%
Somewhat support	24%	22%	24%	27%
Somewhat oppose	10%	4%	17%	12%
Strongly oppose	11%	2%	23%	10%
Don't know	12%	7%	13%	13%
Total Support (Net)	67%	87%	46%	65%
Total Oppose (Net)	22%	7%	41%	22%

b. Provides assistance to Afghan refugees

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly support	14%	27%	5%	6%
Somewhat support	29%	41%	19%	27%
Somewhat oppose	17%	12%	23%	20%
Strongly oppose	22%	7%	39%	21%
Don't know	18%	13%	15%	26%
Total Support (Net)	43%	68%	23%	33%
Total Oppose (Net)	39%	19%	62%	41%

c. Suspends the debt limit until December 2022

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly support	18%	28%	10%	15%
Somewhat support	26%	30%	22%	25%
Somewhat oppose	14%	12%	18%	15%
Strongly oppose	11%	4%	22%	10%
Don't know	31%	26%	28%	36%
Total Support (Net)	44%	58%	32%	40%
Total Oppose (Net)	25%	16%	40%	25%



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6. Would you support or oppose Congress passing a spending bill if it did any of the following...

d. Provides assistance to victims of recent natural disasters, like hurricanes and wildfires

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly support	38%	54%	25%	32%
Somewhat support	37%	33%	44%	37%
Somewhat oppose	9%	7%	12%	10%
Strongly oppose	5%	3%	7%	8%
Don't know	10%	3%	12%	13%
<i>Total Support (Net)</i>	75%	87%	69%	69%
<i>Total Oppose (Net)</i>	15%	10%	19%	18%

e. Keeps the federal government open past October 1, 2021

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly support	39%	57%	24%	39%
Somewhat support	29%	26%	35%	27%
Somewhat oppose	7%	5%	10%	7%
Strongly oppose	5%	3%	9%	5%
Don't know	19%	10%	22%	22%
<i>Total Support (Net)</i>	68%	83%	59%	66%
<i>Total Oppose (Net)</i>	12%	7%	19%	12%



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 28-29, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 433 Democrats, 369 Republicans, and 128 independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see [link](#) for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see [link](#) for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ($n=1,005$, $DEFF=1.5$, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 5.0 percentage points).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.4 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.8 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 9.9 percentage points for independents.

Some of the results of this survey are trended against previous Ipsos polls conducted December 21-25, 2018, January 1-7, 2019, and January 8-14, 2019 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For the December 2018 survey, a sample of roughly 2,776 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. For the January 1-7, 2019 survey, a sample of roughly 2,203 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. For the January 8-14, 2019 survey, a sample of roughly 3,338 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

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GAME CHANGERS





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About Ipsos

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Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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