



1146 19th St., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 463-7300

Interview dates: January 7-10 2011
Interviews: 1,021 adults; 780 registered voters
451 Democrats; 388 Republicans; 182 Independents
Margin of Error: ± 3.1 for all adults; ± 3.5 for registered voters; $\pm 4.4\%$ for Democrats;
 ± 4.9 for Republicans; ± 7.4 for Independents (based on all adults)

Ipsos Poll conducted for Reuters, January 7-10

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Reuters from January 7th - 10th 2011. For the survey, a nationally representative, randomly selected sample of exactly 1,021 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 3.1 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.

	<u>Right direction</u>	<u>Wrong track</u>	<u>(Not sure)</u>
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
10/28-31/10	33	62	5
12/2-5/10	29	62	9
1/7-10/11	36	59	6



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 Q4b. IF MIXED FEELINGS / DK / REFUSED, ASK Q4c
 b. Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)?
 c. If you had to choose, do you lean more towards approve or disapprove?

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>approve</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>approve</u>	<u>Lean</u> <u>toward</u> <u>approval</u>	<u>Still have</u> <u>mixed</u> <u>feelings</u>	<u>Lean</u> <u>toward</u> <u>disapproval</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>disapprove</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>disapprove</u>	<u>(Not sure)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>Approve</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Mean</u> <u>Rating</u>
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
10/28-31/10	26	10	9	3	14	6	31	1	45	51	3.9
12/2-5/10	23	11	11	6	12	8	26	2	45	46	4.0
1/7-10/11	24	13	13	3	15	7	25	*	50	47	4.1



APPROVAL BY PARTY ID

	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
10/28-31/10	76	22	42	49	13	82
12/2-5/10	71	22	42	37	12	83
1/7-10/11	77	20	50	45	17	80

5. Has the US economy turned the corner on the current crisis, is the worse yet to come or have things stabilized but not yet begun to improve?

	Turned the corner	Worst yet to come	Stabilized, but not yet begun to improve	DK/NS
1/7-10/11	12	27	57	5
6/10-13/10	12	34	49	5
2/26-28/10	11	31	55	3
1/28-31/10	10	28	57	5
1/7-11/ 10	11	30	56	3
12/3-6/09	8	35	54	2
10/29- 11/1/09	7	32	59	2
10/1-5/09	11	31	55	3
8/27-31/09	11	35	49	4
7/30-8/3/09	9	32	56	3
7/9-13/09	6	39	49	5
6/4-8/09	9	37	48	6
4/30-5/3/09	10	38	48	4
4/2-6/09	8	36	52	4
3/5 -9/09	3	57	35	4
2/6 – 9/09	7	54	35	4



Q4 & Q5 were split so that half the sample was asked the question without additional information and half the sample was asked with additional information.

Q4. I am going to tell you about the US' debt situation. At the moment, the US is \$13.9 trillion dollars in debt. The current debt 'ceiling', or limit set by Congress is \$14.3 trillion. It is likely that we will hit this ceiling this spring.

Congress will soon vote on whether or not to raise this debt ceiling. Do you personally favor or oppose increasing the US' debt limit?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
Without explanation of consequences*	17	71	11	1
With explanation*	19	71	9	1
Total	18	71	10	1

*** Explanation of Consequences:**

As you may know, not raising the debt limit would damage the US' sovereign debt rating, which is like our credit rating: it would seriously damage our credibility abroad, would make it much more difficult for us to borrow in the future, and would likely push up interest rates.

Q5. As you may know, Republicans have promised to cut billions of dollars from the US budget this year. In your view, which of the following areas can we afford to cut back on? RANDOMIZE AND READ OUT. MULTICODE OK.

	<u>Without Budget info**</u>	<u>With Budget info**</u>	<u>Total</u>
Foreign aid	75	73	74
IRS budget	64	65	65
Defense spending	47	54	51
Financial regulators like the SEC, the Securities and Exchange Commission	53	53	53
Service at national parks	45	49	47
Environmental regulators like the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency	42	49	45
Subsidies for ethanol and other alternative energies programs	40	46	43
Education spending	24	24	24
Medicare benefits	22	23	23
Law enforcement	21	21	21
Social Security benefits	19	20	20
Military healthcare coverage	18	17	18

**** Budget Informational Statement:**

There are three major spending areas that together make up almost two-thirds of our national deficit: about a fifth of the budget is spent on healthcare such as Medicare and Medicaid, another fifth is spent on Defense, and another fifth is spent on Social Security. About a tenth is spent on Veterans. Other spending areas such as education, foreign aid, subsidies, environmental regulation, financial and tax regulation, law enforcement, and others make up the remainder of the budget.



IF SAY CUT BACK ON EDUCATION SPENDING AT Q5 (FOR BOTH v1 AND v2) N=242

Q6. Does this information change your view about cutting [ITEM] spending, or do you definitely believe the cut is necessary?

		<u>Changes my view – do not want to cut</u>	<u>Does not change my view – cut is necessary</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
<i>Educa- tion</i>	Cuts to education could mean that fewer young people afford to go to college.	22	70	5	3
	Cuts to education could mean larger classroom sizes in elementary schools.	25	70	3	2
	Cuts to education could mean eliminating or cutting back preschool programs like Head Start.	21	73	4	1
<i>IRS Budget</i>	Cuts to the IRS budget could mean it is more difficult to catch and prosecute tax cheaters.	15	82	3	--
<i>Law enforce- ment</i>	Cuts to law enforcement could mean fewer police on the street.	26	69	4	--
<i>Finan- cial regula- tion</i>	Cuts to financial regulation budgets could mean there would be fewer people policing the actions of banks and Wall Street.	19	76	4	1
<i>Enviro regula- tions</i>	Cuts to environmental regulation budgets could limit the ability of the EPA and other organizations to enforce clean air and water laws.	19	77	3	--



DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. Have you, or anyone in your immediate family ever served in the military?

	<u>Yes -- currently</u>	<u>Yes -- previously</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
1/7-10/11	15	51	37	--

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

Yes	76
No	23
(Not sure)	1

- 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	17
Moderately Democrat	13
Lean Democrat	14
Strongly Republican	12
Moderately Republican	10
Lean Republican	16
Independent (No lean)	19
Initial Democrats	30
Total Democrats	44
Initial Republicans	21
Total Republicans	37