

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SERIES: GOVERNANCE

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

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Jeff Jones, Lydia Saad
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Note: Q.20-36 should be reported as a *USA Today*/Gallup poll.

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 13-16, 2010 with a random sample of –1,019— adults, aged 18+, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted on the basis of gender, age, race, education, region and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

5. What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? [Open-ended]

| Recent Trend: | | Sep 13-16, 2010 | Aug 5-8, 2010 | Jul 8-11, 2010 | Jun 11-13, 2010 | May 3-6, 2010 | Apr 8-11, 2010 | Mar 4-7, 2010 |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET) | | 69 | 65 | 64 | 57 | 59 | 63 | 66 |
| 1 | Economy in general | 33 | 30 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 23 | 24 |
| 2 | Unemployment/jobs | 28 | 28 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 30 | 31 |
| 3 | Federal budget deficit/federal debt | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 8 |
| 4 | Lack of money | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | Taxes | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | Recession | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 1 |
| 7 | Gap between rich and poor | 1 | * | * | * | * | 1 | * |
| 9 | High cost of living/inflation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | Corporate corruption | * | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | Foreign trade/trade deficit | * | 1 | * | * | * | * | * |
| 12 | Wage issues | * | -- | * | * | * | * | * |
| 13 | Fuel/Oil Prices | * | * | 5 | * | 1 | * | * |
| NON-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET) | | 44 | 51 | 53 | 65 | 59 | 54 | 49 |
| 1 | Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/politicians; Poor leadership; corruption; abuse of power | 11 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 10 |
| 2 | Poor health care/ hospitals; high cost of health care | 6 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 17 | 20 |
| 3 | Immigration/illegal aliens | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | Wars/War (non-specific)/Fear of war | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | Ethics/moral/religious/family decline; dishonesty | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | Education/poor education/access to education | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | Foreign aid/focus overseas | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | Poverty/ hunger/ homelessness | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 9 | National security | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 10 | Situation/War in Iraq | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 11 | Terrorism | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 12 | Crime/violence | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 13 | Judicial system/courts/laws | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 14 | International issues/ problems | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | * | * |
| 15 | Lack of respect for each other | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 16 | Environment/ pollution | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 17 | Lack of military defense | 1 | * | * | * | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 18 | Energy/Lack of energy sources | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 19 | Unifying the country | 1 | * | * | * | 1 | 1 | * |
| 20 | Social Security | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | * |
| 21 | Race relations/ racism | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | * |
| 22 | Care for the elderly/Medicare | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 1 |
| 23 | Welfare | * | * | * | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |
| 24 | War/conflict between Middle East nations | * | 1 | * | 1 | * | * | -- |
| 25 | Situation/War in Afghanistan | * | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 26 | The media | * | * | 1 | * | * | * | * |
| 27 | Elections/Election reform | * | * | * | -- | * | * | * |
| 28 | Natural disaster response/relief | * | 3 | 7 | 18 | 1 | * | -- |
| 29 | Gay rights issues | * | * | -- | * | -- | * | * |
| 30 | Drugs | * | * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | * |
| 31 | Abortion | * | * | -- | 1 | * | * | * |
| 32 | Overpopulation | * | -- | * | -- | * | -- | * |
| | Guns/gun control | -- | -- | -- | * | * | * | * |
| | Children's behavior/way they are raised | -- | -- | -- | * | * | 1 | 1 |
| Other non-economic | | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| No opinion | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | | 132% | 141% | 144% | 153% | 151% | 146% | 139% |

6. Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you think is most important -- the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

BASED ON -1,012-- WHO NAME A MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM; ±4 PCT PTS

| | Republican | Democratic | Other party/ no difference/ no opinion |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--|
| 2010 Sep 13-16 | 40 | 38 | 22 |
| 2009 Aug 31-Sep 2 | 34 | 45 | 20 |
| 2008 Sep 8-11 | 39 | 46 | 14 |
| 2007 Sep 14-16 | 30 | 47 | 22 |
| 2006 Sep 7-10 | 34 | 49 | 16 |
| 2005 Sep 12-15 | 39 | 40 | 21 |
| 2005 Jan 3-5 | 41 | 41 | 18 |
| 2004 Sep 13-15 | 46 | 43 | 11 |
| 2004 Jan 12-15 | 39 | 46 | 15 |
| 2002 Jul 26-28 | 38 | 36 | 26 |
| 2001 Jan 10-14 | 39 | 39 | 22 |
| 1999 Jan 15-17 | 33 | 43 | 24 |
| 1998 Apr 17-19 | 40 | 42 | 18 |
| 1997 Jan 10-13 | 33 | 43 | 24 |
| 1996 Jul 25-28 | 37 | 41 | 22 |
| 1996 May 9-12 | 40 | 44 | 16 |
| 1995 Jan 16-18 | 42 | 32 | 26 |
| 1994 Oct 22-25 | 41 | 37 | 22 |
| 1994 Aug 15-16 | 38 | 37 | 25 |
| 1994 Aug 8-9 | 39 | 37 | 24 |
| 1994 Jul 15-17 | 39 | 32 | 29 |
| 1994 Jan | 31 | 39 | 30 |
| 1993 Sep 10-12 | 31 | 37 | 32 |
| 1993 Jan 8-11 | 29 | 45 | 26 |
| 1992 Mar 26-29 | 34 | 40 | 26 |
| 1991 Jul 11-14 | 36 | 28 | 36 |
| 1991 Mar 7-10 | 40 | 27 | 33 |
| 1990 Oct | 30 | 29 | 41 |
| 1988 Sep | 38 | 33 | 29 |
| 1988 May 9-11 | 27 | 40 | 33 |
| 1987 Apr 10-13 | 29 | 37 | 34 |
| 1986 Jan 10-13 | 33 | 28 | 39 |
| 1985 Jan 25-28 | 39 | 29 | 32 |
| 1984 Aug 10-13 | 39 | 37 | 24 |
| 1984 Feb 10-13 | 30 | 32 | 38 |
| 1983 Nov 18-21 | 28 | 35 | 37 |
| 1982 Aug 13-16 | 26 | 35 | 39 |
| 1981 Jan 8-11 | 39 | 20 | 41 |
| 1980 Mar 28-31 | 28 | 32 | 40 |
| 1979 Oct 12-15 | 25 | 33 | 42 |
| 1976 Apr 23-26 | 18 | 39 | 43 |
| 1975 Oct 17-20 | 15 | 42 | 43 |
| 1972 Aug | 28 | 34 | 38 |
| 1968 May | 30 | 28 | 42 |
| 1964 Apr 24-29 | 16 | 40 | 44 |
| 1960 Feb 4-9 | 24 | 32 | 44 |
| 1956 Sep 20-25 | 55 | 45 | -- |