

## GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

### FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT “SUPER-COMMITTEE”

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted November 21, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of ~1,001—adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample of 1,000 national adults includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents by region. Landline numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers, cell phone numbers are selected using random-digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, phone status (cell phone only/landline only/both, having an unlisted landline number, and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

Polls conducted entirely in one day, such as this one, are subject to additional error or bias not found in polls conducted over several days.

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.

1. Next, how closely are you following the news about the 12-member “Supercommittee” in Congress, created to draft a bipartisan plan to reduce the federal budget deficit by at least \$1 trillion—very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Nov 21	20	33	23	23	1

2. As you may know, it appears the committee will not reach an agreement on deficit reduction by its November 23rd deadline. In your view, do you think the members of the committee—[ROTATED: should have compromised their beliefs on taxes, spending, and the debt more in order to get an agreement done, (or) did the right thing in refusing to reach an agreement that did not reflect their beliefs on taxes, spending, and the debt]?

	<u>Should have compromised more</u>	<u>Were right to refuse to reach an agreement</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Nov 21	54	29	17

3. Who do you blame more for the inability of the committee to reach an agreement – [ROTATED: the Republicans on the committee, the Democrats on the committee,] or both equally?

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Both equally</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Nov 21	24	15	55	7

4. Does the inability of the committee to reach an agreement by the deadline make you extremely worried, very worried, somewhat worried, or not worried about—[RANDOM ORDER]?

**A. The ability of the U.S. Congress to solve the major problems facing the country**

	<u>Extremely worried</u>	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not worried</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Nov 21	19	32	34	12	3

**B. The prospects for meaningful reductions in the U.S. federal budget deficit**

	<u>Extremely worried</u>	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not worried</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Nov 21	15	25	42	14	3

**C. The long-term health of the U.S. economy**

	<u>Extremely worried</u>	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not worried</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Nov 21	19	30	36	13	2