

**GALLUP NEWS SERVICE**

**GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SERIES: GOVERNANCE**

**-- FINAL TOPLINE --**

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**Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 6-9, 2012 with a random sample of -1,017—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.**

**For results based on the sample of -923—registered voters, the maximum margin of sampling 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 sample 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, and phone status (cell phone only/landline only/both, having an unlisted landline number, and being cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2011 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.**

**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.**

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7. What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? [OPEN-ENDED]

	Sep 6-9, 2012	Aug 9-12, 2012	Jul 9-12, 2012	Jun 7-10, 2012	May 3-6, 2012	Apr 9-12, 2012	Mar 8-11, 2012
<i>Recent Trend:</i>							
<b>ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET)</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>70</b>
Unemployment/Jobs	32	23	28	25	22	25	26
Economy in general	29	31	29	31	31	32	31
Federal budget deficit/Federal debt	10	7	7	11	9	11	9
Lack of money	4	3	3	5	4	4	4
Taxes	2	1	1	1	2	2	1
Gap between rich and poor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fuel/Oil prices	1	1	1	1	3	8	7
Corporate corruption	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
High cost of living/Inflation	1	1	1	*	1	2	3
Wage issues	1	1	*	1	1	1	1
Recession	1	1	*	*	*	1	*
Foreign trade/Trade deficit	*	--	--	*	*	*	1
<b>NON-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>
Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/politicians;							
Poor leadership/Corruption/Abuse of power	12	15	13	12	14	12	13
Poor healthcare/hospitals; High cost of healthcare	10	8	7	6	8	9	5
Education/Poor education/Access to education	5	4	4	4	4	5	5
Ethics/moral/religious/family decline; Dishonesty	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Immigration/Illegal aliens	4	4	3	2	3	2	3
Judicial system/Courts/Laws	2	1	2	1	1	2	1
Environment/Pollution	2	1	*	1	1	1	1
Unifying the country	2	*	1	1	1	1	1
Welfare	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Care for the elderly/Medicare	1	*	1	1	1	1	*
Race relations/Racism	1	1	*	*	1	1	1
Elections/Election reform	1	*	*	*	1	*	*
Social Security	1	*	*	*	1	1	*
Abortion	1	*	*	*	*	1	*
Wars/War (nonspecific)/Fear of war	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Energy/Lack of energy sources	1	1	*	1	2	2	2
Lack of respect for each other	*	1	2	1	1	2	2
Situation/War in Afghanistan	*	*	*	*	1	1	*
Lack of military defense	*	*	1	1	1	1	1
International issues, problems	*	1	1	1	1	1	2
Foreign aid/Focus overseas	*	1	1	1	1	2	3
Poverty/ Hunger/Homelessness	*	1	2	1	2	1	2
Situation in Iraq	*	*	*	*	1	1	1
Gay rights issues	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
National security	*	1	*	*	1	1	1
Crime/Violence	*	1	1	*	*	1	2
War/conflict between Middle East nations	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
The media	*	--	*	1	*	*	*
Terrorism	*	*	*	*	1	*	*
Guns/Gun control	*	*	*	--	--	*	--
Children's behavior/Way they are raised	*	--	*	*	1	*	--
Situation with China	--	--	1	*	*	*	--
Drugs	--	--	*	*	*	*	1
Overpopulation	--	--	*	--	*	*	*
Other non-economic	2	3	4	3	3	3	2
No opinion	2	3	3	2	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>137%</b>	<b>130%</b>	<b>130%</b>	<b>128%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>152%</b>	<b>149%</b>

8. 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 -1,009-- WHO NAME A MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM; ±4 PCT PTS**

	Repub- lican Party	Demo- cratic Party	Same/ Other/No opinion		Repub- lican Party	Demo- cratic Party	Same/ Other/No opinion
<b>2011</b>							
2012 Sep 6-9	39	49	13	1993 Sep 10-12	31	37	32
				1993 Jan 8-11	29	45	26
2011 Sep 8-11	44	37	19	1992 Mar 26-29	34	40	26
2010 Sep 13-16	40	38	22	1991 Jul 11-14	36	28	36
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	34	45	20	1991 Mar 7-10	40	27	33
2008 Sep 8-11	39	46	14	1990 Oct	30	29	41
2007 Sep 14-16	30	47	22	1988 Sep	38	33	29
2006 Sep 7-10	34	49	16	1988 May 9-11	27	40	33
2005 Sep 12-15	39	40	21	1987 Apr 10-13	29	37	34
2005 Jan 3-5	41	41	18	1986 Jan 10-13	33	28	39
2004 Sep 13-15	46	43	11	1985 Jan 25-28	39	29	32
2004 Jan 12-15	39	46	15	1984 Aug 10-13	39	37	24
2002 Jul 26-28	38	36	26	1984 Feb 10-13	30	32	38
2001 Jan 10-14	39	39	22	1983 Nov 18-21	28	35	37
1999 Jan 15-17	33	43	24	1982 Aug 13-16	26	35	39
1998 Apr 17-19	40	42	18	1981 Jan 8-11	39	20	41
1997 Jan 10-13	33	43	24	1980 Mar 28-31	28	32	40
1996 Jul 25-28	37	41	22	1979 Oct 12-15	25	33	42
1996 May 9-12	40	44	16	1976 Apr 23-26	18	39	43
1995 Jan 16-18	42	32	26	1975 Oct 17-20	15	42	43
1994 Oct 22-25	41	37	22	1972 Aug	28	34	38
1994 Aug 15-16	38	37	25	1968 May	30	28	42
1994 Aug 8-9	39	37	24	1964 Apr 24-29	16	40	44
1994 Jul 15-17	39	32	29	1960 Feb 4-9	24	32	44
1994 Jan	31	39	30	1956 Sep 20-25	55	45	--

Q.18-19 ROTATED

18. Looking ahead for the next few years, which political party do you think will do a better job of protecting the country from international terrorism and military threats -- [ROTATED: the Republican Party or the Democratic Party]?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democratic</u>	No difference (vol.)/ <u>No opinion</u>
2012 Sep 6-9	45	45	10
2011 Sep 8-11	49	38	13
2010 Sep 13-16	51	38	12
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	49	42	10
2008 Sep 8-11	49	42	9
2007 Sep 14-16	42	47	11
2006 Sep 7-10	44	42	13
2005 Sep 12-15	48	37	15
2003 Sep 8-10	51	36	13
2002 Sep 5-8	50	31	19

19. Looking ahead for the next few years, which political party do you think will do a better job of keeping the country prosperous -- [ROTATED: the Republican Party or the Democratic Party]?

	Repub- lican	Democrat	No difference/ no opinion		Repub- lican	Democrat	No difference/ no opinion
2012 Sep 6-9	42	51	7	1984 Sep 7-10	49	33	18
				1984 Aug 10-13	48	36	24
2011 Sep 8-11	48	39	13	1984 Apr 6-9	44	36	20
2010 Sep 13-16	48	40	12	1983 Sep 6-9	33	40	27
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	39	50	11	1982 Oct 15-18	34	43	23
2008 Sep 8-11	39	52	9	1982 Jun 25-28	43	33	24
2007 Sep 14-16	34	54	12	1982 Feb 5-8	32	42	26
2006 Sep 7-10	36	53	11	1981 Oct 2-5	41	31	28
2005 Sep 12-15	41	46	13	1981 Apr 10-13	41	28	31
2003 Sep 8-10	42	46	12	1980 Oct 10-13	35	36	29
2002 Sep 5-8	42	42	16	1980 Sep 12-15	35	36	29
2001 Sep 7-10	41	45	14	1980 Jun 27-30	31	37	32
2000 Oct 6-9	40	47	13	1978 Oct 27-30	27	38	35
1999 Oct 8-10	45	46	9	1978 Jul 21-24	26	40	34
1998 Oct 29-Nov 1	37	46	17	1978 Mar 3-6	23	42	35
1998 Apr 17-19	43	42	15	1978 Mar 3-6	23	42	35
1997 Oct 27-29	42	44	14	1976 Aug 27-30	23	47	30
1996 Jul 25-28	41	42	17	1974 Sep 27-30	17	47	36
1994 Sep 23-25	48	38	14	1972 Oct 13-16	38	33	29
1994 Aug 15-16	42	36	22	1972 Sep 22-25	38	35	27
1994 Aug 8-9	41	36	23	1972 Aug 4-7	33	39	28
1994 May 20-22	40	42	18	1972 Apr 21-24	25	44	31
1993 Aug 8-10	36	39	25	1971 Aug 27-30	21	46	33
1993 Mar 22-24	38	46	16	1971 Jul 15-18	22	46	32
1992 Oct 23-25	37	45	18	1970 Aug 25-Sep 1	26	40	34
1992 Sep 11-15	39	48	13	1970 Jun 18-23	29	44	27
1992 Jul 17-18	32	53	15	1968 Oct 17-22	34	37	29
1992 Jul 6-8	42	38	20	1968 Sep 1-6	32	34	34
1992 Mar 20-22	43	42	15	1967 Jun 2-7	30	41	29
1992 Feb 6-9	41	43	16	1966 Oct 1-6	24	39	37
1991 Jul 18-21	49	32	19	1966 Sep 8-13	24	41	35
1991 Oct 24-27	44	41	15	1966 Jun 16-21	26	38	36
1991 Mar 21-24	46	31	23	1965 Dec 21-Jan 5	19	48	33
1990 Aug 9-12	45	30	25	1965 Oct 8-13	18	46	36
1990 Oct 25-28	37	35	28	1965 May 13-18	18	52	30
1989 Jul 18-21	51	30	19	1965 Feb 19-24	16	51	33
1988 Sep 9-11	52	34	14	1964 Oct 8-13	21	53	26
1988 May 13-15	39	41	20	1964 Sep 18-23	19	52	29
1988 Jan 22-24	42	35	23	1964 Aug 27-Sep 1	18	59	23
1987 Dec 4-6	41	38	21	1964 Aug 6-11	21	54	25
1987 Oct 23-26	40	33	27	1964 Jan 30-Feb 5	20	48	32
1987 Jul 10-13	34	36	30	1963 Nov 23-26	17	55	28
1987 Jan 16-19	38	37	25	1963 Apr 4-9	24	45	31
1986 Mar 7-10	51	33	16	1963 Jan 11-16	21	49	30
1985 Jun 7-10	44	35	21	1962 Aug 23-28	22	45	33
1985 Mar 8-11	48	32	20	1962 May 31-Jun 5	25	48	27

*Party to Better Keep the Country Prosperous Trend continued on next page*

**Q. 19 (PARTY BETTER TO KEEP COUNTRY PROSPEROUS) CONTINUED**

	Repub- lican	Demo- crat	No difference/ no opinion		Repub- lican	Demo- crat	No difference/ no opinion
1961 Dec 7-12	19	56	25	1956 Oct 18-23	39	39	22
1961 Sep 21-26	18	55	27	1956 Sep 20-25	38	37	25
1961 May 17-22	20	55	25	1956 Sep 9-14	34	39	27
1960 Oct 18-23	31	46	23	1956 May 10-15	36	39	25
1960 Jun 16-21	26	47	27	1955 Dec 8-13	37	34	29
1960 Feb 4-9	29	44	27	1955 Oct 6-11	36	38	26
1958 Sep 10-15	23	45	32	1955 Aug 25-30	39	37	24
1958 Aug 20-25	23	45	32	1952 Jan 20-25	31	35	34
1958 Feb 14-19	22	47	31	1951 Oct 14-19	31	37	32
1957 Sep 19-24	31	42	27	1951 Aug 3-8	32	36	32
1957 May 17-22	36	38	26				

**COMBINED RESPONSES (Q.18-19)**

	Republican better on <u>both</u>	Republican better on security, Democratic better on <u>economy</u>	Democratic better on security, Republican better on <u>economy</u>	Democratic better on <u>both</u>	No opinion/ <u>undesignated</u>
2012 Sep 6-9	38	6	1	43	12
2011 Sep 8-11	41	4	4	32	19
2010 Sep 13-16	41	6	5	31	17
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	36	9	2	39	14
2008 Sep 8-11	37	9	1	40	12
2007 Sep 14-16	31	7	2	43	17
2006 Sep 7-10	32	10	3	39	17
2005 Sep 12-15	37	8	2	34	19
2003 Sep 8-10	36	12	4	31	17
2002 Sep 5-8	36	10	3	27	24