

**GALLUP NEWS SERVICE**

**GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SERIES: GOVERNANCE**

**-- FINAL TOPLINE --**

Timberline: 937008  
H: 323  
Princeton Job #: 12-09-013

Jeff Jones, Lydia Saad  
September 6-9, 2012

---

**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.**

---

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>No opinion</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b><u>2012</u></b>				2009 Apr 6-9	36	55	9
2012 Sep 6-9	13	83	4	2009 Mar 5-8	39	54	7
				2009 Feb 9-12	31	61	9
2012 Aug 9-12	10	83	7	2009 Jan 9-11	19	76	5
2012 Jul 9-12	16	78	7	<b><u>2008</u></b>			
2012 Jun 7-10	17	79	4	2008 Dec 4-7	20	74	6
2012 May 3-6	15	79	6	2008 Nov 13-16	19	74	7
2012 Apr 9-12	17	79	4	2008 Oct 3-5	18	77	5
2012 Mar 8-11	12	82	6	2008 Sep 8-11	18	77	6
2012 Feb 2-5	10	86	4	2008 Aug 7-10	18	73	9
2012 Jan 5-8	13	81	6	2008 Jul 10-13	14	75	10
<b><u>2011</u></b>				2008 Jun 9-12	19	74	7
2011 Dec 15-18	11	86	3	2008 May 8-11	18	76	6
2011 Nov 3-6	13	82	5	2008 Apr 6-9	20	71	9
2011 Oct 6-9	13	81	6	2008 Mar 6-9	21	71	8
2011 Sep 8-11	15	82	3	2008 Feb 11-14	24	70	6
2011 Aug 11-14	13	84	4	2008 Jan 4-6	23	71	6
2011 Jul 7-10	18	77	5	<b><u>2007</u></b>			
2011 Jun 9-12	17	76	7	2007 Dec 6-9	22	70	8
2011 May 5-8	24	70	7	2007 Nov 11-14	20	69	11
2011 Apr 7-11	17	77	6	2007 Oct 12-14	29	64	6
2011 Mar 3-6	18	74	7	2007 Oct 4-7	23	71	6
2011 Feb 2-5	23	71	5	2007 Sep 14-16	24	71	5
2011 Jan 7-9	20	73	7	2007 Aug 13-16	18	76	6
<b><u>2010</u></b>				2007 Jul 12-15	27	66	7
2010 Dec 10-12	13	83	4	2007 Jun 11-14	24	71	5
2010 Nov 4-7	17	77	6	2007 May 10-13	29	64	7
2010 Oct 28-31	21	73	6	2007 Apr 2-5	33	60	7
2010 Oct 7-10	21	73	6	2007 Mar 11-14	28	64	8
2010 Sep 13-16	18	77	5	2007 Feb 1-4	37	55	8
2010 Aug 5-8	19	75	6	2007 Jan 15-18	35	56	9
2010 Jul 8-11	20	73	7	<b><u>2006</u></b>			
2010 Jun 11-13	20	74	6	2006 Dec 11-14	21	74	5
2010 May 3-6	21	73	6	2006 Nov 9-12	26	67	7
2010 Apr 8-11	23	72	6	2006 Nov 2-5	26	63	11
2010 Mar 4-7	16	80	4	2006 Oct 20-22	26	67	6
2010 Feb 1-3	18	78	4	2006 Oct 9-12	23	71	6
2010 Jan 8-10	24	71	5	2006 Oct 6-8	24	68	7
<b><u>2009</u></b>				2006 Sep 7-10	29	63	8
2009 Dec 11-13	25	69	5	2006 Aug 7-10	27	65	8
2009 Nov 5-8	26	68	6	2006 Jul 6-9	29	61	10
2009 Oct 1-4	21	72	7	2006 Jun 1-4	27	63	10
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	31	63	6	2006 May 8-11	21	71	8
2009 Aug 6-9	31	62	6	2006 Apr 10-13	23	70	7
2009 July 10-12	32	54	14	2006 Mar 13-16	27	65	8
2009 June 14-17	33	61	6	2006 Feb 6-9	25	65	10
2009 May 7-10	37	57	7	2006 Jan 9-12	27	67	7

*Congress Job Approval Trend Continued on the Next Page*

**Q.3 (CONGRESS JOB APPROVAL) CONTINUED**

	Approve	Dis- approve	No opinion		Approve	Dis- approve	No opinion
<b><u>2005</u></b>							
2005 Dec 5-8	29	63	8	2002 Apr 8-11	57	34	9
2005 Nov 7-10	29	63	8	2002 Mar 4-7	63	28	9
2005 Oct 13-16	29	64	7	2002 Feb 4-6	62	28	10
2005 Sep 12-15	35	59	6	2002 Jan 7-9	62	29	9
2005 Aug 8-11	36	58	6	<b><u>2001</u></b>			
2005 Jul 7-10	36	58	6	2001 Dec 6-9	72	19	9
2005 Jun 6-8	34	59	7	2001 Nov 8-11	73	19	8
2005 May 2-5	35	57	8	2001 Oct 11-14	84	10	6
2005 Apr 4-7	38	54	8	2001 Sep 7-10	42	44	14
2005 Mar 7-10	37	53	10	2001 Aug 16-19	50	37	13
2005 Feb 7-10	45	48	7	2001 Aug 3-5	47	42	11
2005 Jan 3-5	43	48	9	2001 Jul 19-22	49	37	14
<b><u>2004</u></b>				2001 Jun 11-17	51	34	15
2004 Dec 5-8	41	50	9	2001 May 10-14	49	34	17
2004 Nov 7-10	41	52	7	2001 Apr 6-8	55	32	13
2004 Oct 11-14	40	51	9	2001 Mar 5-7	55	28	17
2004 Sep 13-15	41	52	7	2001 Feb 1-4	53	32	15
2004 Aug 9-11	40	52	8	2001 Jan 10-14	50	40	10
2004 Jul 8-11	40	53	7	<b><u>2000</u></b>			
2004 Jun 3-6	41	52	7	2000 Dec 2-4	56	34	10
2004 May 2-4	41	52	7	2000 Oct 6-9	49	42	9
2004 Apr 5-8	43	51	6	2000 Aug 29-Sep 5	48	42	10
2004 Mar 8-11	42	51	7	2000 May 18-21	39	52	9
2004 Feb 9-12	41	51	8	2000 Jan 7-10	51	42	7
2004 Jan 12-15	48	45	7	<b><u>1999</u></b>			
<b><u>2003</u></b>				1999 Sep 23-26	37	56	7
2003 Dec 11-14	43	50	7	1999 Jul 13-14	39	51	10
2003 Nov 3-5	43	51	6	1999 Jun 11-13	41	53	6
2003 Oct 6-8	41	51	8	1999 Apr 13-14	45	47	8
2003 Sep 8-10	40	53	7	1999 Feb 12-13	41	54	5
2003 Aug 4-6	45	46	9	1999 Jan 15-17	50	46	4
2003 Jul 7-9	49	45	6	<b><u>1998</u></b>			
2003 Jun 12-15	50	41	9	1998 Dec 15-16	42	52	6
2003 May 5-7	49	44	7	1998 Nov 13-15	41	54	5
2003 Apr 7-9	58	33	9	1998 Oct 29-Nov 1	44	47	9
2003 Mar 3-5	48	44	8	1998 Oct 9-12	47	46	7
2003 Feb 3-6	50	39	11	1998 Oct 6-7	44	48	8
2003 Jan 13-16	49	40	11	1998 Sep 11-12	55	36	9
<b><u>2002</u></b>				1998 May 8-10	44	48	8
2002 Dec 5-8	50	40	10	1998 Apr 17-19	49	40	11
2002 Nov 11-14	47	39	14	1998 Feb 13-15	57	33	10
2002 Oct 3-6	50	40	10	1998 Jan 30-Feb 1	56	35	9
2002 Sep 5-8	52	40	8	1998 Jan 16-18	42	47	11
2002 Aug 5-8	46	43	11				
2002 Jul 26-28	53	36	11				
2002 Jul 9-11	54	36	10				
2002 Jun 3-6	52	38	10				
2002 May 6-9	57	33	10				

*Congress Job Approval Trend Continued on the Next Page*

**Q.3 (CONGRESS JOB APPROVAL) CONTINUED**

	Approve	Dis- approve	No opinion		Approve	Dis- approve	No opinion
<b><u>1997</u></b>				<b><u>1990</u></b>			
1997 Dec 18-21	39	52	9	1990 Nov 2-4	26	63	11
1997 Oct 27-29	36	53	11	1990 Oct 25-28	24	68	8
1997 Aug 22-25	41	48	11	1990 Oct 18-21	23	64	13
1997 Jul 25-27	34	57	9	1990 Oct 11-14	28	65	7
1997 May 6-7	32	58	10	<b><u>1988</u></b>			
1997 Apr 18-20	30	59	11	1988 Sep 9-11	42	42	16
1997 Feb 24-26	37	48	15	<b><u>1987</u></b>			
1997 Jan 31-Feb 2	36	51	13	1987 Aug 24-Sep 2	42	49	9
1997 Jan 10-13	41	49	10	<b><u>1986</u></b>			
<b><u>1996</u></b>				1986 Apr 11-14	42	37	21
1996 Oct 26-29	34	51	15	<b><u>1983</u></b>			
1996 Aug 5-7	39	49	12	1983 Apr 29-May 2	33	43	24
1996 May 9-12	30	65	5	<b><u>1982</u></b>			
1996 Apr 9-10	35	57	8	1982 Jun 11-14	29	54	17
<b><u>1995</u></b>				<b><u>1981</u></b>			
1995 Sep 22-24	30	61	9	1981 Jun 19-22	38	40	22
1995 Aug 28-30	30	60	10	<b><u>1980</u></b>			
1995 Jul 7-9	35	55	10	1980 Jun 13-16	25	56	19
1995 May 11-14	34	57	9	<b><u>1979</u></b>			
1995 Apr 17-19	37	54	9	1979 Jun 1-4	19	61	20
1995 Mar 27-29	31	61	8	<b><u>1978</u></b>			
1995 Mar 17-19	32	59	9	1978 Sep 8-11	29	49	22
1995 Feb 24-26	35	53	12	<b><u>1977</u></b>			
1995 Feb 3-5	38	53	9	1977 Sep 9-12	35	44	21
1995 Jan 16-18	33	52	15	1977 Aug 5-8	36	44	20
<b><u>1994</u></b>				1977 Jun 3-6	34	42	24
1994 Dec 28-30	23	66	11	1977 May 20-23	40	40	20
1994 Oct 22-25	23	70	7	1977 Mar 25-28	36	42	22
1994 Oct 7-9	21	73	6	<b><u>1976</u></b>			
1994 Jul 15-17	27	65	8	1976 Jan 23-26	24	58	18
1994 Mar 25-27	29	63	8	<b><u>1975</u></b>			
1994 Feb 26-28	28	66	6	1975 Oct 31-Nov 3	28	54	18
<b><u>1993</u></b>				1975 Jun 27-30	29	54	17
1993 Nov 2-4	24	69	8	1975 Apr 18-21	38	48	14
1993 Aug 8-10	23	69	8	1975 Feb 28-Mar 3	32	50	18
1993 Jul 19-21	24	65	11	<b><u>1974</u></b>			
1993 Feb 26-28	27	54	19	1974 Oct 11-14	35	43	22
<b><u>1992</u></b>				1974 Aug 16-19	47	34	19
1992 Mar 3 ^	18	78	3	1974 Apr 12-15	30	47	23
<b><u>1991</u></b>							
1991 Oct 10-13	40	54	6				
1991 Jul 25-28	32	53	15				

^ Gallup/Newsweek