

**GALLUP NEWS SERVICE**

**GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SERIES: GOVERNANCE**

**-- FINAL TOPLINE --**

Timberline: 937008  
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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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12. As you know, our federal government is made up of three branches: an Executive branch, headed by the President; a Judicial branch, headed by the U.S. Supreme Court; and a Legislative branch, made up of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. First, let me ask you how much trust and confidence you have at this time in the Executive branch headed by the President, the Judicial branch headed by the US Supreme Court, and the Legislative branch, consisting of the US Senate and House of Representatives-- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

**A. The Executive branch headed by the President**

|                   | <u>Great deal</u> | <u>Fair amount</u> | <u>Not very much</u> | <u>None at all</u> | <u>No opinion</u> | <i>Great deal/Fair amount</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2012 Sep 6-9      | 28                | 28                 | 23                   | 20                 | 1                 | 56                            |
| 2011 Sep 8-11     | 17                | 30                 | 29                   | 23                 | *                 | 47                            |
| 2010 Sep 13-16    | 20                | 29                 | 27                   | 24                 | *                 | 49                            |
| 2009 Aug 31-Sep 2 | 26                | 35                 | 22                   | 16                 | 1                 | 61                            |
| 2008 Sep 8-11     | 12                | 30                 | 30                   | 28                 | 1                 | 42                            |
| 2007 Sep 14-16    | 15                | 28                 | 32                   | 24                 | 1                 | 43                            |
| 2006 Sep 7-10     | 15                | 31                 | 28                   | 24                 | 1                 | 46                            |
| 2005 Sep 12-15    | 19                | 33                 | 30                   | 18                 | *                 | 52                            |
| 2004 Sep 13-15    | 31                | 27                 | 25                   | 16                 | 1                 | 58                            |
| 2003 Sep 8-10     | 25                | 35                 | 26                   | 14                 | *                 | 60                            |
| 2002 Sep 5-8      | 28                | 44                 | 20                   | 7                  | 1                 | 72                            |
| 2001 Sep 7-10     | 21                | 42                 | 28                   | 8                  | 1                 | 63                            |
| 2000 Jul 6-9      | 18                | 47                 | 23                   | 11                 | 1                 | 65                            |
| 1999 Feb 4-8      | 21                | 43                 | 24                   | 11                 | 1                 | 64                            |
| 1998 Dec 28-29    | 24                | 39                 | 23                   | 12                 | 2                 | 63                            |
| 1997 May 30-Jun 1 | 13                | 49                 | 27                   | 9                  | 2                 | 62                            |
| 1976 Jun          | 13                | 45                 | 30                   | 9                  | 4                 | 58                            |
| 1974 Apr          | 12                | 28                 | 36                   | 20                 | 3                 | 40                            |
| 1972 May          | 24                | 49                 | 20                   | 4                  | 2                 | 73                            |

*Q.12 trust in branches of federal government continued on next page*

**Q.12 (TRUST IN BRANCHES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT) CONTINUED**

**B. The Judicial branch, headed by the U.S. Supreme Court**

|                   | <u>Great deal</u> | <u>Fair amount</u> | <u>Not very much</u> | <u>None at all</u> | <u>No opinion</u> | <i>Great deal/Fair amount</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2012 Sep 6-9      | 14                | 53                 | 27                   | 4                  | 2                 | 67                            |
| 2011 Sep 8-11     | 12                | 51                 | 28                   | 8                  | 1                 | 63                            |
| 2010 Sep 13-16    | 14                | 52                 | 28                   | 5                  | 2                 | 66                            |
| 2009 Aug 31-Sep 2 | 18                | 58                 | 18                   | 4                  | 2                 | 76                            |
| 2008 Sep 8-11     | 14                | 55                 | 23                   | 6                  | 3                 | 69                            |
| 2007 Sep 14-16    | 15                | 54                 | 23                   | 6                  | 1                 | 69                            |
| 2006 Sep 7-10     | 15                | 54                 | 21                   | 7                  | 3                 | 69                            |
| 2005 Sep 12-15    | 13                | 55                 | 25                   | 6                  | 1                 | 68                            |
| 2004 Sep 13-15    | 14                | 51                 | 27                   | 6                  | 2                 | 65                            |
| 2003 Sep 8-10     | 13                | 54                 | 27                   | 5                  | 1                 | 67                            |
| 2002 Sep 5-8      | 17                | 58                 | 18                   | 5                  | 2                 | 75                            |
| 2001 Sep 7-10     | 17                | 57                 | 20                   | 4                  | 2                 | 74                            |
| 2000 Jul 6-9      | 23                | 52                 | 18                   | 6                  | 1                 | 75                            |
| 1999 Feb 4-8      | 29                | 51                 | 13                   | 5                  | 2                 | 80                            |
| 1998 Dec 28-29    | 27                | 51                 | 16                   | 4                  | 2                 | 78                            |
| 1997 May 30-Jun 1 | 19                | 52                 | 22                   | 5                  | 2                 | 71                            |
| 1976 Jun          | 16                | 47                 | 26                   | 6                  | 4                 | 63                            |
| 1974 Apr          | 17                | 54                 | 20                   | 5                  | 5                 | 71                            |
| 1972 May          | 17                | 49                 | 24                   | 7                  | 4                 | 66                            |

**C. The Legislative branch, consisting of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives**

|                   | <u>Great deal</u> | <u>Fair amount</u> | <u>Not very much</u> | <u>None at all</u> | <u>No opinion</u> | <i>Great deal/Fair amount</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2012 Sep 6-9      | 4                 | 30                 | 47                   | 18                 | 1                 | 34                            |
| 2011 Sep 8-11     | 5                 | 26                 | 50                   | 19                 | *                 | 31                            |
| 2010 Sep 13-16    | 5                 | 31                 | 42                   | 21                 | 1                 | 36                            |
| 2009 Aug 31-Sep 2 | 6                 | 39                 | 38                   | 17                 | *                 | 45                            |
| 2008 Sep 8-11     | 4                 | 43                 | 38                   | 12                 | 2                 | 47                            |
| 2007 Sep 14-16    | 5                 | 45                 | 36                   | 12                 | 1                 | 50                            |
| 2006 Sep 7-10     | 6                 | 50                 | 31                   | 10                 | 2                 | 56                            |
| 2005 Sep 12-15    | 8                 | 54                 | 31                   | 6                  | 1                 | 62                            |
| 2004 Sep 13-15    | 7                 | 53                 | 33                   | 6                  | 1                 | 60                            |
| 2003 Sep 8-10     | 8                 | 55                 | 31                   | 5                  | 1                 | 63                            |
| 2002 Sep 5-8      | 9                 | 58                 | 26                   | 6                  | 1                 | 67                            |
| 2001 Sep 7-10     | 7                 | 58                 | 28                   | 6                  | 1                 | 65                            |
| 2000 Jul 6-9      | 11                | 57                 | 24                   | 7                  | 1                 | 68                            |
| 1999 Feb 4-8      | 8                 | 49                 | 34                   | 7                  | 2                 | 57                            |
| 1998 Dec 28-29    | 13                | 48                 | 30                   | 7                  | 2                 | 61                            |
| 1997 May 30-Jun 1 | 6                 | 48                 | 36                   | 8                  | 2                 | 54                            |
| 1976 Jun          | 9                 | 52                 | 31                   | 6                  | 4                 | 61                            |
| 1974 Apr          | 13                | 55                 | 24                   | 4                  | 4                 | 68                            |
| 1972 May          | 13                | 58                 | 22                   | 3                  | 3                 | 71                            |