GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

FISCAL CLIFF BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS WAVE 2

Results are based on telephone interviews with –1,069– national adults, aged 18+, conducted December 8-9, 2012. 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 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, population density, 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 2011 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ U.S. population. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

The questions reported here were asked of a random half sample for two nights on Gallup Daily tracking.

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. How closely are you following the news about the ongoing "fiscal cliff" federal budget negotiations in Washington—very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too closely	Not at all	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	28	36	19	16	1
2012 Dec 1-2	30	30	21	19	1

2. Based on what you have heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following is handling the fiscal cliff budget negotiations? How about – [RANDOM ORDER]?

A. President Barack Obama

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	48	44	8
2012 Dec 1-2	52	43	6

B. Republican leaders in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	26	64	11
2012 Dec 1-2	27	63	10

C. Democratic leaders in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	38	50	12
2012 Dec 1-2	39	49	11

3. What would you like to see government leaders in Washington do in the fiscal cliff negotiations – [ROTATED: stick to their principles and beliefs on tax increases and spending cuts, even if no agreement is reached by the Jan. 1 deadline, (or) compromise on their principles and beliefs on tax increases and spending cuts in order to reach an agreement by the Jan. 1 deadline]?

	Stick to principles	Compromise to reach agreement	Neither/Other (vol.)	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	18	70	5	8
2012 Dec 1-2	25	62	4	8

4. Just your best guess, how likely is it that President Obama and the leaders in Congress will reach a solution that avoids the Fiscal Cliff measures before Jan. 1—very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	18	41	21	17	3
2012 Dec 1-2	14	44	25	14	3

5. Suppose no agreement is reached by the deadline and the fiscal cliff measures go into effect. Please say whether you think each of the following would or would not have a negative impact on the United States as a whole. How about – [RANDOM ORDER]?

A. Major cuts in U.S. defense spending

	Yes, negative impact	No, not	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	64	31	5

B. Major cuts in U.S. domestic spending

	Yes, negative impact	No, not	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	69	24	7

C. Increases in federal income and Social Security payroll taxes for most taxpayers

	Yes, negative impact	No, not	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	75	19	6

6. And if the fiscal cliff tax increases and spending cuts go into effect, do you think that would or would not have a negative impact on your personal financial situation?

	Yes, negative impact	No, not	No opinion
2012 Dec 8-9	64	33	3