

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

FEDERAL DEBT LIMIT NEGOTIATIONS

Results are based on telephone interviews with –1,076– national adults, aged 18+, conducted October 14-15, 2013. 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 sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 50% cell phone respondents and 50% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by region. Landline and 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 to correct for unequal selection probability, non-response, and double coverage of landline and cell users in the two sampling frames. They are also weighted to match the national demographics of gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, population density, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both, cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2012 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the July-December 2011 National Health Interview Survey. Population density targets are based on the 2010 census. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

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.

Next, as you may know, the president and Congress are trying to work out an agreement to increase the debt ceiling, the amount of money the government can legally borrow. The U.S. Treasury Department has said an agreement needs to be in place by October 17.

1. Just your best guess, do you think an agreement to raise the debt limit will or will not be reached by the October 17 deadline?

	<u>Yes, will be</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2013 Oct 14-15	45	50	5

For comparison (2011 Debt ceiling negotiations): *Next, as you may know, the president and Congress are trying to work out an agreement to increase the debt ceiling, the amount of money the government can legally borrow. The U.S. Treasury Department has said an agreement needs to be in place by August 2. Just your best guess, do you think an agreement to raise the debt limit will or will not be reached by the August 2 deadline?*

	<u>Yes, will be</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Jul 15-17	49	47	4

2. If an agreement is not reached by the October 17 deadline, do you think an economic crisis will or will not result?

	<u>Yes, will result</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2013 Oct 14-15	60	36	4

For comparison (2011 Debt ceiling negotiations): *If an agreement is not reached by the August 2 deadline, do you think an economic crisis will or will not result?*

	<u>Yes, will result</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2011 Jul 15-17	56	40	4

3. What would you like the people in government who represent your views on the debt and budget deficit to do in this situation? Should they—[ROTATED: Hold out for the basic plan they want, even if the debt ceiling is not raised by the deadline, (or should they) Agree to a compromise plan, even if it is a plan you disagree with]?

	<u>Hold out for plan they want</u>	<u>Agree to compromise</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2013 Oct 14-15	31	62	8
2011 Jul 15-17	27	66	6

4. Based on what you know or have read about their approach to the debt ceiling negotiations, do you think each of the following is putting their own political interests first, or putting the country's best interests first? How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

<i>2013 Oct 14-15</i> <i>Sorted by "own political interests"</i>	<u>Own political interests first</u>	<u>Country's best interests first</u>
The Republicans in Congress	73	22
The Democrats in Congress	63	30
President Obama	55	41

FULL RESULTS AND TREND DATA:

A. President Obama

	<u>Own political interests</u>	<u>Country's best interests</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2013 Oct 14-15	55	41	5
2011 Jul 15-17	49	47	3

Q.4 (APPROACH TO DEBT CEILING NEGOTIATIONS) CONTINUED

B. The Republicans in Congress

	<u>Own political interests</u>	<u>Country's best interests</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2013 Oct 14-15	73	22	6
2011 Jul 15-17	72	24	4

C. The Democrats in Congress

	<u>Own political interests</u>	<u>Country's best interests</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2013 Oct 14-15	63	30	7
2011 Jul 15-17	65	31	4