

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

2014 MIDTERM ELECTION BENCHMARK

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Timberline: 937008
HR: 995
Princeton Job #: 14-04-005

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April 24-30, 2014

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted April 24-30, 2014 with a random sample of **-1,513—adults**, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on this sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is **±3 percentage points** at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the sample of **-1,336—**registered voters, the margin of sampling error is **±3 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 telephone 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 and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2013 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the January-June 2013 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.

8. How important will each of the following issues be to your vote for Congress this year -- will it be -- extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important? How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<i>2014 Apr 24-30</i> <i>(sorted by "extremely important")</i>	Extremely important	Extremely/Very important
	%	%
The economy	46	89
The federal budget deficit	38	75
The way income and wealth are distributed in the U.S.	35	67
The Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obama-care"	35	67
Taxes	33	69
Foreign affairs	26	62
Immigration	24	54
Same-sex marriage	20	39
Global warming	19	41

FULL TRENDS: ISSUE IMPORTANCE

A. The economy

	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Not that important	No opinion
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	46	43	9	2	*
2010 Aug 27-30	63	31	4	1	--
2010 Mar 26-28	57	36	5	2	--
2006 Oct 6-8	40	43	16	2	*
2006 Jun 23-25	45	39	14	2	1
2006 Jan 6-8	39	45	14	1	*
2005 Oct 21-23	44	40	14	2	--
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	37	45	15	2	1
2002 Aug 19-21 ^	32	46	18	3	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	43	44	10	3	*
2010 Aug 27-30	62	31	6	1	*
2010 Mar 26-28	57	36	5	2	--
2006 Oct 6-8	40	42	16	2	*
2006 Jun 23-25	45	40	13	2	1
2006 Jan 6-8	38	45	14	1	1
2005 Oct 21-23	43	41	15	1	*
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	37	44	17	2	*
2002 Aug 19-21 ^	34	44	17	3	2

^ WORDING: Economic conditions

Q.8 (IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE) CONTINUED

B. The Affordable Care Act, also known as “Obama-care”

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	35	32	18	13	2
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	34	31	19	15	2

For comparison: *Healthcare*

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2010 Aug 27-30	50	30	15	5	1
2010 Mar 26-28	49	35	12	4	*
2006 Oct 6-8	42	38	16	4	1
2006 Jun 23-25	44	36	17	4	--
2006 Jan 6-8	43	39	15	2	1
2005 Oct 21-23	42	37	18	3	--
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	32	40	24	4	--
<u>National adults</u>					
2010 Aug 27-30	49	30	15	5	1
2010 Mar 26-28	48	34	13	5	*
2006 Oct 6-8	43	37	15	4	1
2006 Jun 23-25	44	36	17	3	*
2006 Jan 6-8	43	39	15	2	1
2005 Oct 21-23	42	37	18	3	*
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	35	39	22	4	*

^ Asked of a half sample.

C. Immigration

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	24	30	31	14	1
2010 Aug 27-30	38	28	23	10	1
2006 Oct 6-8	33	32	22	11	1
2006 Jun 23-25	34	31	24	10	1
2006 Jan 6-8	26	35	30	9	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	24	31	30	15	1
2010 Aug 27-30	38	27	23	11	1
2006 Oct 6-8	33	32	23	11	1
2006 Jun 23-25	33	32	23	11	1
2006 Jan 6-8	26	35	29	9	1

Q.8 (IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE) CONTINUED

D. The Federal Budget Deficit

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	38	37	18	7	1
2010 Mar 26-28	45	33	18	3	*
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	36	37	18	8	1
2010 Mar 26-28	46	33	18	3	*

E. Foreign Affairs

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	26	36	29	8	1
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	26	38	29	6	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	24	34	29	11	2
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	27	37	29	6	1

^ Asked of a half sample.

F. Taxes

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	33	36	25	6	*
2006 Jun 23-25	34	35	26	5	*
2006 Jan 6-8	33	39	24	4	1
2005 Oct 21-23	35	39	23	3	--
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	26	35	32	6	1
1998 Sep 23-24 †					
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	31	37	25	7	*
2006 Jun 23-25	33	36	26	5	*
2006 Jan 6-8	33	38	24	4	1
2005 Oct 21-23	35	38	23	3	1
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	27	33	32	7	1
1998 Sep 23-24 †	21	39	29	9	1

^ Asked of a half sample.

† WORDING: Tax cuts

Q.8 (IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE) CONTINUED

G. The way income and wealth are distributed in the U.S.

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	35	32	20	11	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	33	34	20	13	1

H. Global warming

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	19	22	25	34	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	20	23	23	32	1

For comparison: *The environment*

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2010 Aug 27-30	28	31	30	11	*
2010 Mar 26-28	22	24	29	24	1
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	28	31	32	9	--
<u>National adults</u>					
2010 Aug 27-30	28	32	29	12	*
2010 Mar 26-28	22	24	29	23	1
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	28	33	30	9	*

^ Asked of a half sample.

I. Same-Sex marriage

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	20	19	23	36	1
2006 Jun 23-25	25	20	15	39	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Apr 24-30	20	18	22	37	2
2006 Jun 23-25	24	21	16	38	1

9. Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

2014 Apr 24-30

(sorted by "advantage")

	Republicans	Democrats	Advantage
	%	%	
The federal budget deficit	52	38	R, +14
Foreign affairs	51	39	R, +12
The economy	48	43	R, +5
Taxes	48	43	R, +5
Immigration	42	49	D, +7
The Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obama-care"	43	51	D, +8
The way income and wealth are distributed in the U.S.	40	50	D, +10
Same-sex marriage	33	55	D, +22
Global warming	32	56	D, +24

Q.9 continued on next page

Q.9 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

FULL TRENDS: PARTY TO BETTER HANDLE ISSUES

A. The economy

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>No difference (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	48	43	6	2
2011 May 12-15	48	42	7	3
2011 Apr 20-23	46	41	7	5
2010 Aug 27-30	50	38	10	3
2006 Oct 6-8	37	53	7	3
2006 Mar 10-12	38	53	5	5
2005 Oct 21-23	38	50	9	3
2003 Jul 18-20	36	54	6	4
2003 Jan 3-5	44	43	10	3
2002 Jul 26-28	37	44	12	7
2002 Jun 28-30	48	38	9	5
2002 May 28-29 ^	43	35	13	9
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	46	44	7	3
2011 May 12-15	45	43	8	5
2011 Apr 20-23	46	41	8	5
2010 Aug 27-30	49	38	10	3
2006 Oct 6-8	36	54	7	4
2006 Mar 10-12	38	53	4	5
2005 Oct 21-23	38	50	9	3
2003 Jul 18-20	36	53	7	4
2003 Jan 3-5	43	42	10	5
2002 Jul 26-28	37	42	13	8
2002 Jun 28-30	44	40	10	6
2002 May 28-29 ^	43	34	13	10

^ Asked of a half sample.

Q.9 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

B. The Affordable Care Act, also known as “Obama-care”

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	43	51	5	2
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	41	51	5	3

For comparison: *Health care*

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2011 May 12-15	44	46	5	5
2011 Apr 20-23	43	47	6	5
2010 Aug 27-30	44	44	8	3
2006 Oct 6-8	25	63	8	3
2005 Oct 21-23	31	60	6	3
2003 Jan 3-5 ^ †	37	51	8	4
<u>National adults</u>				
2011 May 12-15	42	46	6	6
2011 Apr 20-23	43	46	6	5
2010 Aug 27-30	43	44	8	4
2006 Oct 6-8	25	62	8	4
2005 Oct 21-23	30	59	7	4
2003 Jan 3-5 ^ †	35	50	9	6

^ Asked of a half sample.

† WORDING: Health care costs

C. Immigration

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	42	49	6	4
2011 May 12-15	48	39	7	6
2011 Apr 20-23	46	39	7	8
2010 Aug 27-30	52	34	10	4
2006 Oct 6-8	35	47	12	7
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	40	49	7	5
2011 May 12-15	46	40	7	7
2011 Apr 20-23	45	40	7	8
2010 Aug 27-30	50	35	10	5
2006 Oct 6-8	34	47	12	8

Q.9 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

D. The federal budget deficit

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	52	38	7	3
2011 May 12-15 †	50	37	8	4
2011 Apr 20-23 †	49	37	9	6
2003 Jul 18-20	37	51	7	5
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	40	43	11	6
2002 May 28-29 ^	40	38	12	10
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	50	38	8	5
2011 May 12-15 †	48	39	8	6
2011 Apr 20-23 †	48	36	9	6
2003 Jul 18-20	37	51	7	5
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	39	43	11	7
2002 May 28-29 ^	40	37	13	11

^ Asked of a half sample.

† WORDING: The federal budget

E. Foreign affairs

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	51	39	7	3
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	53	34	10	3
2002 Oct 21-22	49	33	10	8
2002 Sep 20-22	49	33	11	7
2002 May 28-29 ^	45	29	15	11
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	48	40	8	4
2003 Jul 18-20	46	41	7	6
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	51	34	10	5
2002 Oct 21-22	47	33	10	10
2002 Sep 18 ^	49	33	10	8
2002 May 28-29 ^	46	27	15	13

^ Asked of a half sample.

Q.9 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

F. Taxes

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	48	43	6	3
2006 Jun 23-25	38	49	10	4
2005 Oct 21-23	40	51	6	3
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	47	40	10	3
2002 Sep 20-22	40	48	6	6
2002 May 28-29 ^	43	37	11	9
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	46	44	6	4
2006 Jun 23-25	36	50	10	5
2005 Oct 21-23	41	49	6	4
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	46	40	10	5
2002 Sep 18 ^	38	50	6	6
2002 May 28-29 ^	44	36	11	10

^ Asked of a half sample.

G. The way income and wealth are distributed in the U.S.

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	40	50	7	3
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	39	49	7	5

Q.9 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

H. Global warming

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	32	56	8	3
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	32	55	8	5

For comparison: *The environment*

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2010 Aug 27-30	33	54	9	4
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	37	58	9	6
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	29	59	5	7
2002 May 28-29 ^	28	50	11	11
<u>National adults</u>				
2010 Aug 27-30	31	54	9	5
2003 Jan 3-5 ^	27	56	10	7
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	28	60	5	7
2002 May 28-29 ^	28	49	12	11

^ Asked of a half sample.

I. Same-sex marriage

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	33	55	7	5
2006 Jun 23-25	35	46	12	7
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Apr 24-30	33	52	8	7
2006 Jun 23-25	34	47	12	8