

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

MIDTERM ELECTION FALL BENCHMARK

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

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Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 25-30, 2014 with a random sample of –1,252— 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 ± 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the sample of –632—national adults in Form A, the margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –620—national adults in Form B, the margins of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –1,095— registered voters, the margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –637— men, the margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –615— women, the margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –233— women employed full- or part-time, the margin of sampling error is ± 8 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 July-December 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.

10. 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 Sep 25-30</i> <i>(sorted by "extremely important")</i>	Extremely important	Extremely/Very important
	%	%
The situation with Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria	45	78
The economy	44	88
The availability of good jobs	44	86
The way the federal government is working	44	81
The federal budget deficit	38	73
Equal pay for women †	34	75
Foreign affairs	32	69
The Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obama-care"	32	64
Immigration	31	65
The way income and wealth are distributed in the U.S.	31	64
Taxes	30	69
Abortion and access to contraception ^	23	50
Climate change	17	40

^ Based on -552—registered voters in Form A; ±5 PCT. PTS.

† Based on -543—registered voters in Form B; ±5 PCT. PTS.

Q.10 (IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE) CONTINUED

FULL TRENDS: ISSUE IMPORTANCE

A. The economy

	<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 Sep 25-30	44	44	10	1	*
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 Sep 25-30	43	45	10	2	*
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.10 (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 Sep 25-30	32	32	16	19	2
2014 Apr 24-30	35	32	18	13	2
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	32	32	16	18	2
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 Sep 25-30	31	34	24	10	*
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 Sep 25-30	31	35	22	11	1
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.10 (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 Sep 25-30	38	35	18	8	*
2014 Apr 24-30	38	37	18	7	1
2010 Mar 26-28	45	33	18	3	*
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	38	36	18	8	1
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 Sep 25-30	32	37	24	7	1
2014 Apr 24-30	26	36	29	8	1
2002 Sep 20-22 ^	26	38	29	6	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	30	37	23	8	1
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 Sep 25-30	30	39	25	6	*
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 Sep 25-30	31	39	24	6	*
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.10 (IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE) CONTINUED

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

	Extremely <u>important</u>	Very <u>important</u>	Moderately <u>important</u>	Not that <u>important</u>	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	31	33	21	14	1
2014 Apr 24-30	35	32	20	11	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	30	34	21	13	1
2014 Apr 24-30	33	34	20	13	1

H. Climate Change

	Extremely <u>important</u>	Very <u>important</u>	Moderately <u>important</u>	Not that <u>important</u>	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	17	23	27	32	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	18	23	27	31	1

For comparison: *Global warming*

	Extremely <u>important</u>	Very <u>important</u>	Moderately <u>important</u>	Not that <u>important</u>	No <u>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*

	Extremely <u>important</u>	Very <u>important</u>	Moderately <u>important</u>	Not that <u>important</u>	No <u>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.

Q.10 (IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE) CONTINUED

I. The availability of good jobs

	<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 Sep 25-30	44	42	11	3	*
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	44	42	10	3	*

J. The situation with Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria

	<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 Sep 25-30	45	33	15	6	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	42	35	16	6	1

K. The way the federal government is working

	<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 Sep 25-30	44	37	15	3	1
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	42	37	15	5	1

L. (Asked of a half sample) Abortion and access to contraception

	<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 Sep 25-30	23	27	23	25	3
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	24	27	22	24	2

M. (Asked of a half sample) Equal pay for women

	<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 Sep 25-30	34	41	15	10	*
<u>National adults</u>					
2014 Sep 25-30	33	42	16	9	*

11. 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 Sep 25-30

(sorted by "advantage")

	Republicans	Democrats	Advantage
	%	%	
The federal budget deficit	54	34	R, +20
The situation with Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria	53	34	R, +19
Foreign affairs	51	38	R, +13
The economy	50	39	R, +11
Taxes	50	40	R, +10
The way the federal government is working	47	39	R, +8
Immigration	47	42	R, +5
The availability of good jobs	45	44	R, +1
The Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obama-care"	45	47	D, +2
The way income and wealth are distributed in the U.S.	39	49	D, +10
Abortion and access to contraception ^	37	50	D, +13
Climate change	33	53	D, +20
Equal pay for women †	25	63	D, +38

^ Based on -552—registered voters in Form A; ±5 PCT. PTS.

† Based on -543—registered voters in Form B; ±5 PCT. PTS.

Q.11 continued on next page

Q.11 (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 Sep 25-30	50	39	7	4
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 Sep 25-30	48	41	8	4
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.11 (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 Sep 25-30	45	47	4	4
2014 Apr 24-30	43	51	5	2
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	43	48	5	4
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

Q.11 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

C. Immigration

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>No difference (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	47	42	6	4
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 Sep 25-30	45	44	7	4
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

D. The federal budget deficit

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>No difference (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	54	34	8	3
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 Sep 25-30	51	36	9	4
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

Q.11 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

E. Foreign affairs

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>No difference (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	51	38	8	4
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 Sep 25-30	48	39	9	4
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.

F. Taxes

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>No difference (vol.)</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	50	40	8	3
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 Sep 25-30	47	41	8	4
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.

Q.11 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

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 Sep 25-30	39	49	7	4
2014 Apr 24-30	40	50	7	3
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	37	50	8	4
2014 Apr 24-30	39	49	7	5

H. Climate Change

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	33	53	8	6
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	31	54	9	6

For comparison: *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.

Q.11 (CONGRESSIONAL PARTY BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE ISSUES) CONTINUED

I. The availability of good jobs

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	45	44	7	4
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	43	44	9	4

J. The situation with Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	53	34	8	5
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	51	35	9	5

K. The way the federal government is working

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	47	39	11	3
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	44	40	13	3

L. (Asked of a half sample) Abortion and access to contraception

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	37	50	7	6
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	36	51	8	6

M. (Asked of a half sample) Equal pay for women

	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	No difference (vol.)	No <u>opinion</u>
<u>Registered Voters</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	25	63	7	5
<u>National adults</u>				
2014 Sep 25-30	24	62	9	5