

NATIONAL VOTER POLL: A Survey of “Droppers” and “Switchers” August 16, 2011

Sample Size Droppers: 400

Sample Size Switchers: 400

Margin of Error: +/-4.9 for Droppers & Switchers, +/-6.4 for Persuadable Switchers

- Thinking back to 2008, did you vote in the Presidential election that year or did something come up that made you unable to vote? **[IF VOTED]** And did you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain or someone else in the 2008 Presidential election?

	Switch	Drop
Voted-Obama	100%	100%

- And did you happen to vote in the election this past November for U.S. Senate, Congress and other local offices?

	Switch	Drop
Yes, voted	100%	0%
No, did not vote	0%	100%

- [ASK ONLY IF YES IN Q2 AND STATE=PA, OH, CO, FL, NV, NH, WI, NC AND IA] And last year, in the election for U.S. Senate did you vote for the [ROTATE] Democratic or Republican candidate?

	Switch	Per Switch
Democratic	21%	19%
Republican	72%	74%
(Other/ Third Party)	1%	0%
(Don't remember)	5%	7%
(Refused)	0%	0%

- [ASK ONLY IF YES IN Q2 AND STATE=PA, OH, CO, FL, NV, NH, WI, NC AND IA] And last year, in the election for U.S. House of Representatives did you vote for the [ROTATE] Democratic or Republican candidate?

	Switch	Per Switch
Democratic	16%	17%
Republican	80%	77%
(Other/ Third Party)	0%	0%
(Don't remember)	4%	7%
(Refused)	0%	0%

5. [ASK ONLY IF YES IN Q2 and STATE = NM, MI, or VA] And in the election for U.S. House of Representatives did you vote for the [ROTATE] Democratic or Republican candidate?

Republican	Switch 100%
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6. [ASK ALL] When it comes to the national economy, which one of the following issues concerns you the most?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
The size of the federal budget deficit	37%	22%	35%
The unemployment rate	41%	48%	41%
Home foreclosures	4%	5%	6%
Gas prices	9%	14%	8%
(None of the above)	2%	2%	1%
(Other—Specify)	6%	9%	6%
(Don't know/ refused)	1%	1%	2%

7. In your opinion, when do you think the economy will fully regain its strength and be completely back on track?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Later this year	2%	4%	3%
By the end of next year	10%	14%	10%
A few years down the road	67%	63%	65%
(More than a few years)	13%	10%	14%
(Won't recover)	4%	5%	5%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	4%	4%

8. [SPLIT] Looking ten years down the road, do you think the United States will be?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
The economic leader of the world	16%	22%	16%
One of the top economies, but on the same level with other countries such as China and India	38%	32%	35%
Still an important economy but trailing countries such as China and India	19%	20%	22%
No longer an economic leader	16%	17%	17%
(Other)	1%	2%	1%
(Don't know/ refused)	9%	7%	9%

9. [SPLIT] Looking ten years down the road, if the world economy was the Olympics, do you think the United States would?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Win gold	24%	24%	24%
Win silver or bronze	38%	41%	38%
Not even on the metal stand	30%	25%	31%
(Don't know/ refused)	8%	10%	6%

10. Overall, how would you rate your own economic situation?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Excellent	13%	7%	12%
Good	62%	65%	64%
Bad	17%	18%	16%
Very bad	6%	9%	5%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	2%	3%

11. And how would you rate your own economic situation compared to other Americans?
Do you feel you are financially [ROTATE] better off or worse off than the average American? [IF CHOICE] And is that much or somewhat better/worse off?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Much better off	14%	9%	11%
Somewhat better off	57%	59%	57%
Somewhat worse off	14%	18%	16%
Much worse off	4%	4%	4%
(Don't know/ refused)	11%	10%	11%

12. When it comes to your own personal economic situation, which of the following issues worries you the most?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
The value of your home and other investments	35%	20%	37%
The cost of college tuition	5%	9%	5%
Saving enough money for retirement	23%	26%	20%
Difficulty finding a job for you or a family member	15%	25%	15%
Gas prices	14%	15%	15%
(Don't know/ refused)	9%	7%	8%

I am now going to read you several pairs of statements. For each pair please let me know which comes closest to your own opinion.

13. Which of the following comes closest to your own opinion?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Most American companies behave responsibly, creating jobs while making a profit	42%	22%	43%
Most American companies behave irresponsibly and hurt the middle class in order to make a profit	49%	71%	47%
(Both)	3%	3%	2%
(Neither)	4%	2%	5%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	2%	3%

14. Which of the following comes closest to your own opinion?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Wealthy people are already taxed too much in this country and the government should stop penalizing people for their success	32%	13%	24%
The wealthy should be taxed at a higher rate because we can't solve the deficit problem without doing so	56%	80%	63%
(Both)	2%	1%	2%
(Neither)	8%	3%	8%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	2%	2%

15. Which of the following comes closest to your own opinion?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Government is almost always wasteful and inefficient	65%	55%	67%
Government often does a better job than people give it credit for	28%	37%	26%
(Both)	3%	4%	3%
(Neither)	2%	2%	3%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	2%	2%

16. Which of the following do you feel would be the most helpful thing Washington could do to create jobs?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Pass new federal spending on innovation and infrastructure	17%	21%	16%
Streamline government regulations on businesses	23%	11%	24%
Reduce the federal budget deficit	26%	20%	26%
Expand U.S. exports to foreign countries	13%	21%	13%
Cut federal taxes	11%	13%	11%
(None of the above/ other)	7%	5%	5%
(Don't know/ refused)	4%	8%	4%

17. Switching gears a bit, when it comes to the federal budget debt and deficit, how important is the debt and deficit compared to other policy issues facing our country today? Please use a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means the federal debt and deficit should be the most important policy issue, a 5 means it is one of many important issues, and a 0 means it is not at all important.

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Mean Score	6.90	6.52	6.84
Total very important issue (8-10)	45%	36%	42%

Using the same 0-10 scale, where 10 means that the federal debt and deficit should be the most important issue, and a 0 means it is not at all important, how important do you think reducing the federal debt and deficit is to [READ AND ROTATE]?

	Score	Very Imp
18. Republicans in Washington		
Switch	6.21	38%
Drop	5.55	32%
Per Switch	6.02	33%
19. Democrats in Washington		
Switch	4.88	21%
Drop	6.77	38%
Per Switch	4.97	20%
20. President Barack Obama		
Switch	5.11	29%
Drop	7.32	52%
Per Switch	5.46	29%

21. [SPLIT] Overall, do you think that cutting the deficit will help create jobs?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Yes	50%	46%	46%
No	40%	37%	41%
(Don't know/ refused)	10%	16%	14%

22. [SPLIT] Overall, do you think that cutting the deficit will help grow the economy?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Yes	66%	65%	64%
No	25%	29%	27%
(Don't know/ refused)	9%	6%	9%

23. The government recently came very close to defaulting on our debt. Who do you think deserves most of the blame for letting the country get so close to defaulting?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
President Obama	13%	4%	10%
Democrats in Congress	9%	4%	6%
Republicans in Congress	24%	50%	24%
(All of the above)	40%	26%	43%
(Both President Obama and Democrats)	2%	0%	2%
(Both President Obama and Republicans)	0%	0%	0%
(Both Democrats and Republicans)	8%	10%	11%
(Don't know/ refused)	4%	5%	3%

24. Now that President Obama and Congressional leaders have reached a deal to reduce the debt and deficit and raise the debt ceiling, do you think we have:

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Mostly solved our deficit problem	2%	1%	1%
Started to solve our deficit problem but still have a long way to go	46%	61%	49%
Have not made a dent in solving our deficit problem	51%	36%	48%
(Don't know/ refused)	1%	2%	1%

25. From what you know about the deficit deal, do you generally think it was a good or a bad thing for the country?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
A good thing	34%	41%	35%
A bad thing	39%	37%	38%
(A little of both)	18%	13%	16%
(Don't know/ refused)	9%	9%	11%

26. From what you know about the deficit deal, who do you think got more of what they wanted?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
President Obama and Congressional Democrats	19%	11%	14%
Congressional Republicans	34%	38%	34%
Neither, it was an even compromise	42%	43%	45%
(Don't know/ refused)	6%	8%	8%

27. And in negotiating the deal, do you think that President Obama compromised [READ]?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Too much	22%	26%	22%
Not enough	42%	23%	39%
The right amount	28%	40%	29%
(Don't know/ refused)	8%	11%	11%

28. Looking over the next couple of months, if the President and Congress take further steps to reduce the federal budget deficit, which of the following approaches would you prefer they take?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
All spending cuts	29%	16%	24%
Mostly spending cuts with some tax increases	25%	26%	27%
Half spending cuts and half tax increases	27%	34%	31%
Some spending cuts and mostly tax increases	12%	14%	10%
All tax increases	4%	6%	3%
(Don't know/ refused)	4%	5%	5%

29. As you may already know, the recent deficit deal passed in Congress cut defense spending in an effort to help control the budget deficit. In general, would you support or oppose further cuts to defense spending in the coming months? [IF CHOICE] Is that strongly or moderately support/oppose?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Strongly support	21%	24%	19%
Moderately support	25%	33%	29%
Moderately oppose	18%	19%	23%
Strongly oppose	31%	19%	26%
(Don't know/ refused)	4%	6%	4%

30. Republican leaders in Congress have said that we should not allow any increases in taxes even if it would help reduce the deficit. Overall, do you agree or disagree with Republican leaders on this issue? [IF CHOICE] And is that strongly or moderately agree/disagree?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Strongly agree	25%	11%	22%
Moderately agree	12%	12%	9%
Moderately disagree	22%	23%	26%
Strongly disagree	38%	51%	40%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	3%	3%

31. And which of the following would you like to see elected officials in Washington do when it comes to the Bush tax cuts?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Allow the Bush tax cuts to expire for everyone	18%	17%	18%
Allow the Bush tax cuts to expire for people making more than \$250,000 a year	32%	48%	35%
Continue the Bush tax cuts for all income levels	17%	18%	22%
Do not raise taxes (Q30)	25%	11%	22%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	6%	3%

32. Overall, when it comes to Medicare and Social Security do you feel that these programs for the elderly:

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Are in good financial shape and will be there for generations to come	3%	5%	2%
Have minor problems that will need to be addressed at some point in the near future	20%	25%	24%
Have serious financial problems that need to be addressed or the programs won't be around for future generations	75%	67%	71%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	3%	2%

33. Switching gears again, would you say you approve or disapprove of the job President Obama has done over the past two years? [IF CHOICE] And is that strongly or moderately?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Strongly approve	14%	34%	7%
Moderately approve	29%	44%	39%
Moderately disapprove	14%	9%	19%
Strongly disapprove	39%	8%	31%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	5%	4%

34. And thinking about the presidential election of 2012, if the election for President were held today, would you: [READ DO NOT ROTATE]?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Definitely vote for Barack Obama	16%	43%	0%
Probably vote for Barack Obama	18%	30%	31%
Probably vote for the Republican candidate	15%	8%	25%
Definitely vote for the Republican candidate	25%	3%	0%
(Depends)	20%	10%	34%
(Don't know/ refused)	6%	5%	10%

35. And when it comes to the Presidential election next year, which one issue do you feel will be most important to you when you cast your vote?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
The economy and jobs	53%	53%	54%
The debt and deficit	15%	7%	14%
Medicare and Social Security	14%	21%	18%
The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	4%	10%	4%
Social issues such as abortion, gun control and gay marriage	6%	4%	5%
(Other)	4%	3%	3%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	2%	2%

36. Now thinking about the elections for Congress in November of 2012, if the election for Congress were held today, in general, would you:

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Definitely vote for the Democratic candidate	12%	36%	8%
Probably vote for the Democratic candidate	18%	33%	20%
Probably vote for the Republican candidate	26%	8%	29%
Definitely vote for the Republican candidate	20%	3%	7%
(Depends)	19%	15%	30%
(Don't know/ refused)	5%	6%	7%

37. When it comes to your own political ideology, on a scale of 1 to 9 where a nine means very liberal, a one means very conservative and a five means moderate, where would you place yourself when it comes to your political ideology? You can use any number between 1 and 9.

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Mean score	4.55	5.57	4.65
Total Liberal (7-9)	14%	27%	11%
Total Moderate (4-6)	60%	61%	68%
Total Conservative (1-3)	25%	10%	20%

And when it comes to [READ AND ROTATE], on a scale of 1 to 9 where a 9 means very liberal, a one means very conservative and a five means moderate, where would you place [READ SAME NAME] when it comes to their political ideology? You can use any number between 1 and 9.

	Score	Lib	Mod	Con
38. Republicans in Washington				
Switch	3.86	14%	35%	47%
Drop	3.53	12%	27%	51%
Per Switch	3.88	14%	34%	46%
39. Democrats in Washington				
Switch	6.63	57%	30%	8%
Drop	6.03	40%	46%	8%
Per Switch	6.51	52%	37%	6%
40. President Barack Obama				
Switch	6.68	58%	30%	9%
Drop	6.13	41%	47%	6%
Per Switch	6.71	57%	34%	6%

I am now going to read you a few issues that have been in the news recently. For each one, please tell me if you feel the Democrats or the Republicans are being the most reasonable on that issue.

		Dem	Rep	(Neither)	(Both)	DK
41. Taxes						
	Switch	38%	40%	13%	3%	5%
	Drop	65%	14%	8%	3%	10%
	Per Switch	43%	37%	11%	4%	6%
42. The Deficit						
	Switch	30%	43%	17%	7%	3%
	Drop	57%	17%	10%	6%	11%
	Per Switch	31%	37%	18%	9%	4%
43. Spending						
	Switch	26%	47%	16%	6%	6%
	Drop	49%	27%	11%	5%	8%
	Per Switch	25%	46%	15%	7%	7%
44. Reforming entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security						
	Switch	37%	33%	17%	5%	8%
	Drop	60%	15%	8%	4%	13%
	Per Switch	42%	28%	17%	5%	9%

45. Thinking about the next couple of months, which would you rather see President Obama do?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Compromise with Republicans in Congress to pass legislation	67%	52%	67%
Stand on principle even if it means less legislation is passed	22%	41%	22%
(Neither)	3%	2%	4%
(Other)	3%	1%	3%
(Don't know/ refused)	5%	4%	5%

46. Thinking about the next couple of months, which would you rather see Republicans in Congress do?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Compromise with President Obama to pass legislation	64%	83%	69%
Stand on principle even if it means less legislation is passed	29%	14%	24%
(Neither)	3%	1%	2%
(Other)	2%	1%	2%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	2%	3%

47. When it comes to the TEA Party movement, do you think it is [ROTATE]?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Fighting effectively to control spending, taxes and deficits	27%	11%	19%
Going too far and jeopardizing important safety nets like Medicare and Social Security	46%	64%	56%
Having little to no effect in Washington	17%	15%	16%
(Other)	2%	2%	2%
(Don't know/ refused)	7%	9%	7%

I am now going to read a few words and phrases people have used to describe the main political parties. In this case we will talk first about the Democratic/Republican Party.

Please rate each on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means that word or phrase describes the Democratic Party extremely well and 0 means that word or phrase does not describe the Democratic Party at all. You may use any number between 0 and 10

		Switch Mean Score	Drop Mean Score	Per Switch Mean Score	Switch % Vry Well	Drop % Vry Well	Per Switch % Vry Well
48.	Serious about reducing the federal budget deficit	4.14	6.23	4.42	14%	34%	13%
49.	Anti-Business	4.83	4.31	4.62	17%	12%	12%
50.	Too reliant on government spending to solve problems	6.41	5.65	6.36	41%	19%	37%
51.	Responsible with taxpayer dollars	3.55	5.27	3.66	10%	20%	6%
52.	Has good ideas to fix the economy	4.04	5.76	4.13	9%	26%	6%
53.	Willing to work with the Republican party	4.09	5.59	4.01	14%	24%	9%
54.	Working hard to create jobs	4.40	5.87	4.55	15%	27%	12%
55.	Can be trusted to protect Medicare	5.27	6.24	5.33	30%	36%	27%
56.	Too willing to raise taxes	6.14	5.01	5.95	37%	15%	32%

Please rate each on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 means that word or phrase describes the Republican Party extremely well and 0 means that word or phrase does not describe the Republican Party at all. You may use any number between 0 and 10

		Switch Mean Score	Drop Mean Score	Per Switch Mean Score	Switch % Vry Well	Drop % Vry Well	Per Switch % Vry Well
57.	Serious about reducing the federal budget deficit	5.48	5.01	5.37	29%	21%	26%
58.	Anti-Business	3.43	4.13	3.69	12%	16%	12%
59.	Too reliant on government spending to solve problems	4.36	4.80	4.60	16%	20%	16%
60.	Responsible with taxpayer dollars	4.25	3.53	4.23	12%	7%	10%
61.	Has good ideas to fix the economy	4.50	3.74	4.22	14%	8%	10%
62.	Willing to work with the Democratic party	3.27	2.99	3.14	6%	7%	5%
63.	Working hard to create jobs	4.55	3.83	4.36	16%	8%	12%
64.	Can be trusted to protect Medicare	4.02	3.14	3.92	14%	10%	13%
65.	Too willing to raise taxes	3.36	4.27	3.59	13%	23%	11%

69. And finally, overall, who do you feel deserves most of the blame for the current state of the economy?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
President George W. Bush	41%	76%	43%
President Barack Obama	26%	7%	18%
(Both)	16%	8%	20%
(Neither)	13%	8%	15%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	2%	4%

The last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

70. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Strong Republican	17%	3%	10%
Not-so-strong Republican	12%	2%	15%
Independent - lean Republican	9%	2%	8%
Independent	31%	20%	35%
Independent - lean Democratic	5%	12%	7%
Not-so-strong Democrat	9%	17%	13%
Strong Democrat	10%	38%	6%
(Don't know/refused)	7%	6%	6%

71. And politically speaking, would you say you are conservative, moderate, or liberal?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Conservative	38%	20%	37%
Moderate	50%	52%	55%
Liberal	10%	24%	7%
(Don't know/refused)	2%	4%	2%

72. In what year were you born?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
18-29	2%	6%	2%
30-44	15%	19%	11%
45-59	37%	32%	29%
60+	44%	40%	56%
Don't Know/ Refused	2%	2%	2%

73. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
1 – 11 th grade	3%	6%	2%
High school graduate	25%	31%	25%
Non-college post H.S.	2%	2%	3%
Some college	18%	21%	17%
College graduate	32%	26%	31%
Post-graduate school	19%	12%	21%
(Don't know/ refused)	1%	2%	1%

74. Are you married, unmarried living with partner, single, separated, divorced or widowed?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Married	73%	58%	73%
Unmarried with partner	1%	4%	1%
Single	9%	13%	8%
Separated/divorced	6%	10%	6%
Widowed	9%	13%	11%
(Don't know/ refused)	1%	2%	1%

75. We want to make sure we are talking to a lot of different kinds of people. Could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background? [IF "NO", ASK:] What is your race--white, black, Asian, Native American, or something else?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
White	91%	82%	91%
Black	2%	10%	2%
Hispanic	2%	2%	0%
Asian	0%	2%	0%
Native American	0%	0%	0%
(Other)	2%	1%	3%
(Don't know/ refused)	3%	3%	3%

76. Would you please tell me into which of the following categories the total yearly income of your household falls—including everyone who currently lives in your household? Just stop me when I get to your category.

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Under \$30,000	14%	24%	16%
\$30,000 to \$50,000	13%	15%	15%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	15%	13%	12%
\$75,000 to \$100,000	14%	11%	15%
\$100,000 to \$150,000	10%	9%	7%
\$150,00 to \$250,000	3%	2%	3%
Over \$250,000	2%	2%	2%
(Don't know/ refused)	28%	24%	29%

77. Have you or anyone in your household been unemployed in the past year?

	Switch	Drop	Per Switch
Yes, myself	18%	18%	16%
Yes, someone in my household	12%	15%	9%
No	68%	65%	73%
(Don't know/ refused)	2%	2%	2%

THIS COMPLETES OUR SURVEY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, AND HAVE A PLEASANT (DAY/EVENING).