

REG. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes	100%
No	-
Not sure	-

P1. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a strong Democrat, not very strong Democrat, strong Republican, not very strong Republican, and independent, or some other political party? [IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Strong Democrat	28%
Weak Democrat	11
Independent / Closer to the Democrats	7
Independent	13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans	6
Weak Republican	13
Strong Republican	23
DEMOCRAT (NET)	38%
INDEPENDENT (NET)	26
REPUBLICAN (NET)	36
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET)	45%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET)	42

Q1C. Some people say that addressing the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities. Do you agree or disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? [IF AGREE] And do you strongly or just somewhat agree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? [IF DISAGREE] And do you strongly or just somewhat disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? [IF DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you lean toward agreeing or disagreeing that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities?

	<u>Aug 24</u>	<u>Jul 24</u>	<u>Jun 24</u>	<u>May 24</u>	<u>Apr 24</u>	<u>Mar 24</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Dec 23</u>	<u>Nov 23</u>	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>
Strongly agree	53%	50%	51%	54%	53%	54%	52%	53%	51%	54%	55%	55%
Somewhat agree	22	24	25	24	24	24	26	25	25	23	24	25
Somewhat disagree	13	16	14	15	15	13	12	13	14	14	12	12
Strongly disagree	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	5	4
Don't know/Refused	6	6	5	4	5	5	6	5	6	5	5	5
AGREE (NET)	76%	74	76	77	77	78	77	79	77	76	79	80
DISAGREE (NET)	18	20	19	19	18	17	17	16	18	19	16	15

Q2C. Thinking about our national debt over the last few years, would you say your level of concern about our national debt has: [IF NO CHANGE/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say that your level of concern about our national debt has probably increased a little or probably decreased a little over the last few years?

	<u>Aug 24</u>	<u>Jul 24</u>	<u>Jun 24</u>	<u>May 24</u>	<u>Apr 24</u>	<u>Mar 24</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Dec 23</u>	<u>Nov 23</u>	<u>Oct 23</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>
Increased a lot	50%	52%	49%	52%	50%	53%	50%	51%	51%	55%	53%	50%
Increased a little	27	27	29	30	30	29	28	29	28	27	27	29
Decreased a little	5	5	6	3	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	4
Decreased a lot	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
No change	11	10	10	9	8	9	11	9	10	10	10	10
Don't know/Refused	5	4	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	2	4	3
INCREASED (NET)	77%	79	78	82	80	83	79	80	79	82	79	80
DECREASED (NET)	7	7	9	5	8	6	7	7	7	6	7	7

Q3C. Thinking about our national debt over the next few years, do you expect the problem to get: [IF THE SAME/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, do you think the national debt problem will probably get a little better or probably get a little worse over the next few years?

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Much better.....	11%	9%	7%	6%	8%	7%	9%	8%	8%	6%	5%	6%
Somewhat better	25	25	21	19	20	19	15	20	18	17	19	19
Somewhat worse	27	31	31	32	30	34	34	32	30	32	32	32
Much worse	27	25	34	35	35	33	34	33	34	38	36	36
No change	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	3
Don't know/Refused	8	8	5	5	5	4	5	5	6	4	5	4
BETTER (NET).....	36%	33	28	25	28	25	24	28	26	23	24	25
WORSE (NET)	54	56	65	67	65	67	67	65	64	70	68	67

Q4C. When it comes to addressing our national debt, would you say things in the United States are heading in the right direction or do you think things are off on the wrong track? [IF NONE/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say that things in the United States are probably heading in the right direction or probably off on the wrong track when it comes to addressing our national debt?

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Right direction - Strongly ...	11%	9%	7%	7%	9%	8%	12%	8%	9%	7%	7%	8%
Right direction -Somewhat	20	20	19	19	19	18	16	19	18	19	18	20
Wrong track - Somewhat...	25	28	27	25	26	26	24	25	26	27	26	27
Wrong track - Strongly.....	39	37	43	45	42	44	43	41	41	43	44	42
Neither/Mixed	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Don't know/Refused	4	5	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	3	3	3
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	30%	29	26	26	28	26	28	28	27	26	25	28
WRONG TRACK (NET)	65	65	71	70	68	69	68	67	67	70	70	69

Q5C. And when it comes to our national debt, do you think it is an issue that the President and Congress should spend more time addressing or less time addressing? And is that a lot [MORE/LESS] or a little [MORE/LESS] time? [IF THE SAME AMOUNT/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say the President and Congress should probably spend more time addressing the national debt or probably spend less time addressing the national debt?

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A lot more time	51%	47%	54%	54%	52%	52%	51%	53%	50%	52%	53%	53%
A little more time.....	29	36	29	30	31	32	31	29	29	30	30	30
A little less time.....	7	6	6	5	5	5	6	5	6	6	4	5
A lot less time	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
The same amount of time..	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	3
Don't know/Refused	7	5	5	4	4	5	5	6	6	4	5	5
MORE TIME (NET)	80%	83	83	84	84	83	82	82	79	82	83	83
LESS TIME (NET)	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	9	11	10	9	9

Q6C. And when it comes to our national debt, how optimistic or pessimistic are you that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years? [IF TOTALLY MIXED/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say you lean toward being optimistic or lean toward being pessimistic that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years?

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Very optimistic.....	9%	7%	7%	4%	8%	6%	9%	7%	7%	6%	7%	6%
Somewhat optimistic	38	41	32	34	31	32	29	35	31	30	34	36
Somewhat pessimistic.....	29	34	36	37	34	35	34	33	36	36	34	33
Very pessimistic.....	15	12	20	19	22	20	22	19	17	21	19	18
Neither/Mixed	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	2	4	3	3	3
Don't know/Refused	6	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	3	3	4
OPTIMISTIC (NET)	47%	47	39	38	39	39	38	42	39	37	41	42
PESSIMISTIC (NET)	44	46	56	56	55	55	55	51	53	57	53	51

Switching gears slightly...

B1. As you may know, the next presidential debate is scheduled for September 10. During that debate, how important is it to you that both candidates answer questions about their plans to:

	IMPORTANT		NOT IMPORTANT		NET	
	Very	Some	Some	At all	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
• Avoid a 21% automatic cut to Social Security beneficiaries that is just 9 years away.....	73%	22	4	1	95	5
• Address the \$35 trillion and rising national debt.....	61%	30	7	2	91	9
• Ensure tax reform doesn't add to the debt.....	57%	35	6	1	92	8

Q10. Thinking more about tax policy, next year large parts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will expire, and lawmakers must decide whether to extend these provisions. Extending all of the expiring tax cuts would add an additional \$4 trillion to the national debt. When thinking about candidates for this year's election, are you more likely to support:

A candidate that will work to ensure that tax reform doesn't add to the national debt, even if it means allowing some tax cuts to expire or finding other savings in the budget.....	74%
A candidate that will extend the tax cuts, even if it adds to the national debt and makes our fiscal outlook worse	26

Turning to Social Security, as you may know this program is on unstable financial footing. If lawmakers do nothing, in just 9 years, Social Security will face automatic cuts of 21% for all beneficiaries, which would mean a \$17,000 cut for the typical retired couple.

Q11. Would you be more likely to support a candidate that:

Has a plan to prevent automatic cuts and extends the stability of Social Security into the future.....	65%
Promises not to touch Social Security.....	35

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

D100. What is your gender?

Male.....	46%
Female.....	53
Self-describe.....	*

DAGE. What is your age?

18-29	17%
30-44	24
45-54	17
55-64	18
65+.....	23

D105. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as:

Very liberal.....	13%
Somewhat liberal	17
Moderate	36
Somewhat conservative	19
Very conservative.....	15
LIBERAL (NET)	30%
CONSERVATIVE (NET).....	33

D108. Which of the following best describes you and your family?

Working class	28%
Lower middle class	20
Middle class	40
Upper middle class	10
Affluent	*
I'm not sure.....	3

D102. What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?

Did not complete high school	2%
Graduated high school	25
Attended technical/vocational school	3
Attended some college but no degree.....	20
Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	13
Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree	27
Obtained Master's, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.).....	10

DRACE. To ensure we have a representative sample, please indicate your race. [IF BLACK/WHITE/OTHER] Do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Black/African-American	12%
White/Caucasian	75
Hispanic/Latino	10
Asian-American	2
Native American	1
Other	1

REGION. What state do you live in?

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	21

REGION9. Coded National Region [9-WAY]

New England	5%
Middle Atlantic	13
East North Central	16
West North Central	7
South Atlantic	21
East South Central	6
West South Central	11
Mountain	7
Pacific	14