

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20009
 (202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1009 voters
 Dates: October 25-30, 2013

FINAL

Study #11028
 Tax Reform Survey
 October 2013

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| 47 Male 53 Female [109] |
|--------------------------------------|

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

1a. Are you currently registered to vote at this address?

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------|--------------|
| Yes, registered | 100 | CONTINUE | [139] |
| No, not registered | - | TERMINATE | |
| Not sure | - | | |

1b. How would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say you are

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------------|
| Mostly Democratic | 31 | [154] |
| Leaning Democratic..... | 11 | |
| Completely independent | 21 | |
| Leaning Republican..... | 11 | |
| Mostly Republican | 23 | |
| Not sure..... | 3 | |
| Total Democratic | | 42 |
| Total Republican | | 34 |

2a. In the election for U.S. Congress from this district next year do you think you will vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate? (IF "NEITHER" OR "NOT SURE," ASK:) Well, as of right now, do you lean more toward the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| The Democratic candidate | 34 | [157] |
| The Democratic candidate (lean) | 6 | |
| The Republican candidate | 35 | |
| The Republican candidate (lean) | 3 | |
| Neither/would vote for a third-party candidate (VOL) | 7 | |
| Not sure | 15 | |
| Total Democratic Candidate | | 40 |
| Total Republican Candidate | | 38 |

Now I have some questions on the issue of federal taxes and the budget. . .

3a. I'm going to read you descriptions of different groups of people and institutions, and for each one, I would like you to tell me whether you feel this group should be paying more in taxes than it does today, should be paying less in taxes than it does today, or is paying about the right amount today.

(READ ITEMS) (IF "MORE" OR "LESS" ASK:) Is that a lot or just somewhat?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY SHOULD PAY MORE A LOT

| | Total Should Pay More | Total Should Pay Less | Should Pay More A Lot | Should Pay More Just Somewhat | Paying The Right Amount | Should Pay Less Just Somewhat | Should Pay Less A Lot | Not Sure | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| The richest two percent | | | | | | | | | [158] |
| October 2013 | 65 | 8 | 39 | 26 | 22 | 4 | 4 | 5 | |
| January 2013 | 66 | 9 | 41 | 25 | 20 | 5 | 4 | 5 | |
| April 2012..... | 70 | 6 | 54 | 16 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 6 | |
| Large corporations | | | | | | | | | [160] |
| October 2013 | 64 | 10 | 35 | 29 | 19 | 6 | 4 | 7 | |
| January 2013 | 64 | 11 | 36 | 28 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | |
| April 2012..... | 66 | 6 | 41 | 25 | 18 | 3 | 3 | 10 | |
| The middle class | | | | | | | | | [159] |
| October 2013 | 6 | 46 | 1 | 5 | 45 | 29 | 17 | 3 | |
| January 2013 | 9 | 41 | 1 | 8 | 46 | 27 | 14 | 4 | |
| April 2012..... | 7 | 34 | 1 | 6 | 55 | 24 | 10 | 4 | |

3b. Which of the following concerns you more on the issue of taxes **(READ LIST)?**

| | | |
|---|----|--------------|
| Democrats will go too far in raising taxes..... | 35 | [161] |
| Republicans will go too far in protecting tax breaks for the wealthy and large corporations | 44 | |
| Both equally (VOL)..... | 13 | |
| Neither (VOL)..... | 3 | |
| Not sure | 5 | |

4. As you may know, Congress and the president need to reach a new budget agreement in the next few months dealing with government spending and taxes. In general, who do you have more confidence in to have the right approach on these issues—the Democrats or the Republicans? **(IF DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS, ASK:)** Is that somewhat more or much more?

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| The Democrats | 39 | |
| Much more..... | 23 | [162] |
| Somewhat more..... | 16 | |
| The Republicans | 33 | |
| Somewhat more..... | 12 | |
| Much more..... | 21 | |
| No difference/neither (VOL) | 24 | |
| Not sure | 4 | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 6 | |

5a. Which of these two statements comes closer to describing the budget priorities you would like Congress to follow? *

| | | |
|---|----|--------------|
| Congress should focus on getting our budget deficit under control and bringing down the national debt | 43 | [163] |
| Congress should focus on strengthening the economy and creating jobs..... | 50 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 2 | |
| Not sure | 5 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

5b. Which of these two statements comes closer to describing the budget priorities you would like Congress to follow? **

| | | |
|---|----|--------------|
| Congress should focus on getting our budget deficit under control and bringing down the national debt..... | 28 | [164] |
| Congress should focus on strengthening the economy and creating jobs, while also tackling our deficit responsibly | 68 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 1 | |
| Not sure | 3 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

6a. Which of the following concerns you more?

| | | |
|---|----|--------------|
| Democrats won't do enough to get federal spending under control and reduce the deficit..... | 42 | [165] |
| Republicans will go too far in cutting programs such as education and medical research..... | 41 | |
| Both equally (VOL) | 14 | |
| Not sure | 3 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

6b. Which of the following concerns you more? **

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Democrats won't do enough to get federal spending under control and reduce the deficit | 38 | [166] |
| Republicans will go too far in protecting tax breaks for the rich and loopholes for big corporations | 41 | |
| Both equally (VOL)..... | 17 | |
| Not sure | 4 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

7ab. I'm going to read pairs of statements describing different budget plans that Congress might pass. For each one, please tell me whether you prefer budget A or budget B. **(READ ITEMS)--(IF THEY MAKE A CHOICE, ASK:)** Do you prefer that somewhat more or much more?

| <u>Budget A</u> | <u>Much More</u> | <u>Some-what More</u> | <u>Budget B</u> | <u>Some-what More</u> | <u>Much More</u> | <u>Neither (VOL)</u> | <u>Not Sure</u> | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| A budget that increases federal spending on programs like education and medical research by fifty billion dollars* | 21 | 15 | A budget that keeps federal spending at the current level | 32 | 21 | 7 | 4 | [167] |
| A budget that cuts federal spending on programs like education and medical research by fifty billion dollars** | 15 | 13 | A budget that keeps federal spending at the current level | 35 | 22 | 10 | 5 | [171] |
| A budget that cuts spending, with no tax increases* | 24 | 15 | A budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations and also cuts spending | 25 | 31 | 2 | 3 | [168] |
| A budget that cuts spending, with no tax increases ** | 30 | 21 | A budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations, with no cuts in spending | 23 | 15 | 8 | 3 | [172] |
| A budget that does not increase taxes on any American * | 19 | 17 | A budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations | 26 | 32 | 3 | 3 | [169] |
| A budget that does not increase taxes on any American ** | 14 | 14 | A budget that closes corporate tax loopholes and limits tax breaks for the wealthy | 27 | 40 | 3 | 2 | [173] |
| A budget that makes no changes in spending on Social Security and Medicare * | 51 | 28 | A budget that cuts spending on Social Security and Medicare | 9 | 5 | 2 | 5 | [170] |
| A budget that makes no changes in spending on entitlement programs ** | 15 | 20 | A budget that cuts spending on entitlement programs | 27 | 25 | 2 | 11 | [174] |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

| Summary of Q7 Results | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|----------------|---------------------|
| <u>Budget A</u> | <u>Total A</u> | <u>Budget B</u> | <u>Total B</u> | <u>Differential</u> |
| A budget that increases federal spending on programs like education and medical research by fifty billion dollars | 36 | A budget that keeps federal spending at the current level | 53 | -17 |
| A budget that cuts federal spending on programs like education and medical research by fifty billion dollars | 28 | A budget that keeps federal spending at the current level | 57 | -29 |
| A budget that cuts spending, with no tax increases | 39 | A budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations and also cuts spending | 56 | -17 |
| A budget that cuts spending, with no tax increases | 51 | A budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations, with no cuts in spending | 38 | 13 |
| A budget that does not increase taxes on any American | 36 | A budget that increases tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations | 58 | -22 |
| A budget that does not increase taxes on any American | 28 | A budget that closes corporate tax loopholes and limits tax breaks for the wealthy | 67 | -39 |
| A budget that makes no changes in spending on Social Security and Medicare | 79 | A budget that cuts spending on Social Security and Medicare | 14 | 65 |
| A budget that makes no changes in spending on entitlement programs | 35 | A budget that cuts spending on entitlement programs | 52 | -17 |

8a. Are you familiar with the automatic federal spending cuts that are now in effect that are often referred to as the quote, "sequester, unquote?"

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE FAMILIAR IN Q.8a.)

8b. Are your feelings about these automatic spending cuts generally favorable or generally unfavorable?

| | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| Yes, Familiar With Automatic Spending Cuts/Sequester | 56 | |
| Generally favorable | 22 | [175/176] |
| Generally unfavorable | 29 | |
| Not sure | 5 | |
| No, not familiar with automatic spending cuts/sequester | 41 | |
| Not sure | 3 | |

9. In the coming year, the automatic spending cuts will reduce domestic and military spending by one hundred ten billion dollars if Congress takes no action. In your opinion, which of these is the best way for Congress to deal with these automatic spending cuts?

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Allow the full spending cuts to take effect .. | 18 | [177] |
| Reduce the spending cuts somewhat | 56 | |
| Cancel the spending cuts | 18 | |
| Not sure | 8 | |

10a. Which of these two choices for dealing with the automatic spending cuts do you prefer **(READ LIST)? ***

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Allow the full spending cuts to take effect | 27 | [178] |
| Reduce the spending cuts by fifty percent and replace them with new tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations..... | 53 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 10 | |
| Not sure | 10 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

10b. Which of these two choices for dealing with the automatic spending cuts do you prefer **(READ LIST)?** **

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Allow the full spending cuts to take effect | 34 | [179] |
| Cancel the spending cuts and replace them with new tax revenue from the wealthy and corporations | 50 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 9 | |
| Not sure | 7 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

11a. **I'm going to read you two statements on this issue of the automatic spending cuts, and please tell me whether you agree more with Democrats or more with Republicans on this issue.**

Republicans say the bi-partisan budget caps were an important first step toward reducing wasteful spending and lowering the deficit, which is the best way to grow our economy and create jobs. Congress should keep the promise it made to limit spending, rather than bust the caps with new spending we can't afford.

Democrats say the automatic spending cuts are hurting our economy by forcing cuts in education, medical research, and job training. Economists say these cuts will cost us eight hundred thousand jobs. We should replace these automatic cuts with a balanced plan of responsible spending cuts and new revenue from the wealthy and big corporations.

Do you agree more with the Republicans or more with the Democrats on this issue? **(IF DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS, ASK:)** Is that much more or somewhat more? *

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Republicans | 43 | |
| Much more..... | 29 | [180] |
| Somewhat more..... | 14 | |
| Democrats | 51 | |
| Somewhat more..... | 22 | |
| Much more..... | 29 | |
| Not sure | 6 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 8 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

11b. **I'm going to read you two statements on this issue of the automatic spending cuts, and please tell me whether you agree more with Democrats or more with Republicans on this issue.**

Republicans say the bi-partisan budget caps were an important first step toward reducing wasteful spending and lowering the deficit, which is the best way to grow our economy and create jobs. Congress should keep the promise it made to limit spending, rather than bust the caps with new spending we can't afford.

Democrats say it is time to focus on creating jobs and growing our economy by investing in education, medical research, and job training. By replacing the automatic cuts we can create eight hundred thousand jobs paid for with new revenue from the wealthy and big corporations. America needs more investments in the middle class, not more spending cuts.

Do you agree more with the Republicans or more with the Democrats on this issue? **(IF DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS, ASK:)** Is that much more or somewhat more? **

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Republicans | 40 | |
| Much more..... | 25 | [208] |
| Somewhat more..... | 15 | |
| Democrats | 52 | |
| Somewhat more..... | 21 | |
| Much more..... | 31 | |
| Not sure | 8 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 12 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

12a. To deal with the automatic spending cuts, which of these two approaches do you prefer? *

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Allow the full spending cuts to take place..... | 46 | [209] |
| Avoid spending cuts this year, paid for by reducing spending on Medicare and Social Security in future years | 22 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 20 | |
| Not sure | 12 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

12b. If Congress decides to cancel some of the automatic spending cuts, which of these do you think is the better way to pay for that? **

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Eliminating some tax breaks for the wealthy and big corporations | 70 | [210] |
| Reducing spending on Medicare and Social Security in future years... | 12 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 12 | |
| Not sure..... | 6 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

13a. Which of these, if either, concerns you more about the automatic spending cuts scheduled to take place next year? *

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| The cuts are projected to cost the economy eight hundred thousand jobs | 31 | [211] |
| Vital services like schools, medical research, and nutrition assistance will be cut..... | 44 | |
| Not concerned about either (VOL) | 9 | |
| Not sure | 16 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

13b. I'm going to read some programs that will be affected by the automatic spending cuts, and please tell me which one or two of these cuts, if any, concern you the most. ** **(ALLOW UP TO TWO RESPONSES.)**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Cuts in education | 42 | [212] |
| Cuts in the military | 34 | > |
| Cuts in college loans and tuition assistance | 19 | |
| Cuts in food safety | 18 | |
| Cuts in medical research | 15 | |
| Cuts in nutrition programs..... | 11 | |
| Cuts in job training | 8 | |
| None of these concern me (VOL) | 4 | |
| Not sure | 5 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

14ab. **Now I'm going to read you a pair of statements about the budget and taxes. After I read each pair, please tell me whether you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement.**

Republicans say, "The best way to get our economy growing again and create jobs is to reduce federal spending and bring down the budget deficit. We must not continue the irresponsible and unsustainable spending that has left us with a seventeen trillion dollar debt that threatens the future for our children and grandchildren. And the last thing we need is further tax hikes that will kill jobs and hurt our economy--we don't have a deficit problem because taxes are too low, we have it because the government spends too much."

Democrats say, "Our highest priority is to create the conditions for job creation, economic growth, and prosperity built from the middle-out, not the top down. We should replace harmful automatic spending cuts with smart, balanced deficit reduction, while making essential investments in education, job training, and infrastructure to create jobs for the American people. And we should ask the wealthy and large corporations to pay their fair share of taxes, rather than hurt our communities by cutting healthcare, education, and public safety."

Do you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement? **(IF RESPONDENT MAKES A CHOICE, ASK:)** Do you (agree with Republicans' statement/agree with Democrats' statement) much more or somewhat more? **

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Agree With Republicans' Statement | 41 | |
| Much more | 29 | [213/214] |
| Somewhat more | 12 | |
| Agree With Democrats' Statement | 54 | |
| Somewhat more | 19 | |
| Much more | 35 | |
| Neither..... | 3 | |
| Not sure..... | 2 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 13 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

14cd. **Now I'm going to read you a pair of statements about the budget and taxes. After I read each pair, please tell me whether you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement.**

Republicans say, "The best way to get our economy growing again and create jobs is to reduce federal spending and bring down the budget deficit. We must not continue the irresponsible and unsustainable spending that has left us with a seventeen trillion dollar debt that threatens the future for our children and grandchildren. And the last thing we need is further tax hikes that will kill jobs and hurt our economy--we don't have a deficit problem because we tax too little, we have it because we spend too much."

Democrats say, "It's wrong to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class by relying only on cuts to vital programs such as medical research and education. Instead of cutting cancer research, we should require millionaires to pay a tax rate as high as the middle class pays. Instead of cutting funding for schools, let's end tax breaks for corporations that send American jobs offshore. If we ask the rich and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes, we can be fiscally responsible and protect the middle class."

Do you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement? **(IF RESPONDENT MAKES A CHOICE, ASK:)** Do you (agree with Republicans' statement/agree with Democrats' statement) much more or somewhat more? *

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Agree With Republicans' Statement | 40 | |
| Much more..... | 27 | [215/216] |
| Somewhat more | 13 | |
| Agree With Democrats' Statement | 53 | |
| Somewhat more | 18 | |
| Much more..... | 35 | |
| Neither..... | 3 | |
| Not sure..... | 4 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 13 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

15. Which one of the following, if any, do you think is the best reason to consider supporting the Republicans' budget proposal?

| | | |
|---|----|--------------|
| It does not increase taxes on anyone | 14 | [217] |
| It reduces federal government spending..... | 31 | |
| It brings down the federal budget deficit | 29 | |
| None of these (VOL)..... | 18 | |
| Not sure | 8 | |

16ab. I'm going to read some statements made by people who support the Democrats' budget priorities. For each statement, please tell me whether you think it is a very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not a convincing reason to support the Democrats' budget priorities.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY CONVINCING REASON

| | Very Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Fairly Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Just Somewhat Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Not A Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Not Sure | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| We should end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs and profits offshore, and level the playing field for small businesses that create jobs in America ** | 55 | 12 | 19 | 12 | 2 | [225] |
| We should close tax loopholes for large corporations that ship jobs offshore, and instead use that money to invest in jobs in America by improving our roads and bridges and rebuilding manufacturing * | 54 | 14 | 18 | 13 | 1 | [218] |
| Instead of cutting education funding for our children, we should ask millionaires to pay at least as high a tax rate as their secretaries **.... | 50 | 14 | 10 | 24 | 2 | [224] |
| It's better to end huge tax subsidies to oil and gas companies making record profits than to make seniors pay more for Medicare * | 48 | 10 | 15 | 24 | 3 | [219] |
| We should invest in education, medical research, and repairing our crumbling roads and bridges, which will create eight hundred thousand jobs next year ** | 45 | 15 | 19 | 19 | 2 | [226] |
| Instead of shutting down clinical trials for cancer patients, let's close loopholes so profitable corporations can't get away with paying no taxes ** | 44 | 12 | 19 | 23 | 2 | [229] |
| We need to build prosperity from the middle-out, not the top down, by investing in education, job training, and research to strengthen our middle class * | 44 | 11 | 20 | 23 | 2 | [222] |
| The country needs reasonable solutions and leaders who will work together, not another reckless Republican government shutdown **... | 44 | 9 | 12 | 32 | 3 | [228] |
| Our budget plan preserves and protects Medicare, so that it is strong for seniors today and will also be there for our children and grandchildren ** | 43 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 1 | [227] |

Q.16ab (cont'd)

| | Very Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Fairly Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Just Somewhat Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Not A Convincing <u>Reason</u> | Not Sure | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| We need common-sense budget solutions that fund key priorities that support working families and strengthen the economy for the future *..... | 42 | 17 | 24 | 15 | 2 | [221] |
| We have already cut federal spending by one-point-nine trillion dollars, and reduced the deficit by half over four years. It's time to focus on jobs and not just on the deficit * | 29 | 14 | 21 | 35 | 1 | [223] |
| We need a balanced approach to deficit reduction, so for every dollar in spending cuts there should be a dollar in revenue from big corporations and the wealthy * | 28 | 11 | 23 | 35 | 3 | [220] |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).
 ** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

17. Which one of the following, if any, is your biggest concern about the Democrats' budget proposal?

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| It raises taxes | 18 | [230] |
| It increases government spending | 33 | |
| It doesn't do enough to reduce the deficit | 30 | |
| None of these (VOL)..... | 12 | |
| Not sure | 7 | |

18ab. Now I'm going to read you some specific concerns that have been raised about the budget priorities of Republicans in Congress. For each one of these, please tell me how serious a concern it is for you--very serious, fairly serious, just somewhat serious, or not too serious a concern.

(READ ITEMS)—Is that a very serious, fairly serious, just somewhat serious, or not too serious a concern?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO VERY SERIOUS CONCERN

| | Very Serious <u>Concern</u> | Fairly Serious <u>Concern</u> | Just Somewhat Serious <u>Concern</u> | Not Too Serious | Not Sure | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| We need leaders to compromise to avoid another crisis, but nearly every Republican in Congress has signed an irresponsible pledge promising that they will never vote to raise even one penny of revenue by closing tax loopholes for the wealthy and big corporations **..... | 55 | 10 | 14 | 19 | 2 | [237] |
| Republicans in Congress are proposing irresponsible new tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, while putting the entire burden of deficit reduction on the backs of the middle class and vulnerable families **..... | 54 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 2 | [240] |
| Republicans in Congress favor giving more tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and large corporations, while demanding cuts in services our families depend on, like college loans, nutrition assistance for seniors, and Head Start **..... | 53 | 11 | 15 | 19 | 2 | [236] |
| Republicans in Congress are breaking their promise to seniors by pushing to end the Medicare guarantee and replace it with a voucher plan that shifts costs to seniors * | 50 | 10 | 17 | 20 | 3 | [234] |
| Republicans in Congress are protecting tax breaks for companies that ship jobs offshore, taking jobs away from American workers and hurting our communities * | 49 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 2 | [233] |
| Republicans in Congress demand cuts in vital investments for our future, like education, roads and bridges, and medical research, but won't ask the wealthy and big corporations to pay one penny more in taxes * | 49 | 11 | 14 | 22 | 4 | [232] |
| Republicans in Congress favor keeping automatic budget cuts that will eliminate eight hundred thousand American jobs by slashing spending in areas like education, healthcare, public safety, and transportation ** | 48 | 15 | 15 | 19 | 3 | [238] |
| Republicans in Congress have pushed the country into crisis after crisis, even a government shutdown that hurt our economy, because they refuse to ask the wealthy and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes * | 48 | 11 | 11 | 28 | 2 | [231] |
| The fact that Republicans in Congress won't agree to ask the rich and big corporations to pay their fair share of taxes shows they are not really serious about reducing the deficit ** | 45 | 15 | 13 | 25 | 2 | [239] |
| Republicans in Congress are putting our families at risk by demanding reckless cuts in programs like food safety inspections, support for police and fire departments, and medical research *..... | 45 | 12 | 16 | 24 | 3 | [235] |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

And now thinking about all the issues we've discussed related to the budget...

19a. Congress and the president need to reach a new budget agreement in the next few months dealing with government spending and taxes. In general, who do you have more confidence in to have the right approach on these issues—the Democrats or the Republicans? **(IF DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS, ASK:) Is that somewhat more or much more?**

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| The Democrats | 44 | |
| Much more..... | 31 | [241] |
| Somewhat more..... | 13 | |
| The Republicans | 33 | |
| Somewhat more..... | 10 | |
| Much more..... | 23 | |
| No difference/neither (VOL) | 19 | |
| Not sure | 4 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 11 | |

| Q4 | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| The Democrats | 39 | |
| Much more..... | 23 | |
| Somewhat more..... | 16 | |
| The Republicans | 33 | |
| Somewhat more..... | 12 | |
| Much more..... | 21 | |
| No difference/neither (VOL) | 24 | |
| Not sure | 4 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 6 | |

19b. Overall, do the Democrats' and Republicans' positions on the budget make you more likely to support Democratic candidates or more likely to support Republican candidates for Congress next year?

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|--------------|
| Democratic candidates | 45 | [242] |
| Republican candidates | 36 | |
| Neither/No difference (VOL) | 12 | |
| Not sure | 7 | |

Turning to some related issues...

20ab. Now I'd like to get your reaction to some tax and spending policies that may be considered by Congress for reducing the federal budget deficit. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of this proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY APPROVE

| | Total Approve | Total Disapprove | Strongly Approve | Somewhat Approve | Somewhat Disapprove | Strongly Disapprove | Not Sure | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Close tax loopholes to ensure that American corporations pay as much on foreign profits as they do on profits made in the United States* | 79 | 17 | 59 | 20 | 9 | 8 | 4 | [244] |
| Eliminate tax loopholes for corporate meals and entertainment** | 69 | 27 | 54 | 15 | 9 | 18 | 4 | [256] |
| Eliminate the loophole that allows Wall Street hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class taxpayers* | 68 | 28 | 53 | 15 | 7 | 21 | 4 | [248] |
| Pass the Buffett Rule, which sets a minimum income tax rate of thirty percent for millionaires to ensure they do not pay a lower tax rate than the middle class* | 71 | 23 | 51 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 6 | [245] |
| Close loopholes that allow corporations and wealthy individuals to avoid paying U.S. taxes by shifting income to offshore tax havens** | 62 | 36 | 50 | 12 | 8 | 28 | 2 | [250] |
| Eliminate special tax breaks for oil and gas companies** | 62 | 34 | 45 | 17 | 12 | 22 | 4 | [253] |
| Prevent corporations from avoiding taxes when they award their executives millions of dollars in stock options** | 51 | 45 | 42 | 9 | 9 | 36 | 4 | [254] |
| Establish a small tax on all sales of stocks and bonds. For example, for each ten thousand dollars sold, the tax would be three dollars* | 51 | 45 | 42 | 9 | 9 | 36 | 4 | [249] |
| Limit tax deductions for people making over two hundred fifty thousand dollars a year* | 52 | 41 | 25 | 27 | 18 | 23 | 7 | [243] |
| Reduce the annual cost-of-living increase for Social Security benefits** | 30 | 67 | 17 | 13 | 18 | 49 | 3 | [252] |
| Lower the taxes that American corporations pay on profits they earn in foreign countries** | 24 | 70 | 12 | 12 | 17 | 53 | 6 | [255] |
| Cut spending on public education* | 19 | 79 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 64 | 2 | [246] |
| Cut Medicaid health coverage for families and seniors** | 13 | 83 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 69 | 4 | [251] |
| Ask seniors to pay more for their Medicare coverage* | 11 | 85 | 2 | 9 | 21 | 64 | 4 | [247] |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

| Comparison from January, 2013 | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | <u>Total Approve</u> | <u>Total Disapprove</u> | <u>Strongly Approve</u> | <u>Somewhat Approve</u> | <u>Somewhat Disapprove</u> | <u>Strongly Disapprove</u> | <u>Not Sure</u> | |
| Increase taxes on the profits that American corporations make overseas, to ensure they pay as much on foreign profits as they do on profits made in the United States * | 83 | 13 | 59 | 24 | 7 | 6 | 4 | [247] |
| Eliminate the loophole that allows hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class taxpayers * | 75 | 20 | 57 | 18 | 6 | 14 | 5 | [253] |
| Close loopholes that allow corporations and wealthy individuals to avoid paying U.S. taxes by shifting income to overseas tax havens ** | 73 | 25 | 58 | 15 | 7 | 18 | 2 | [257] |
| Prevent corporations from avoiding taxes when they award their executives millions of dollars in stock options ** | 63 | 34 | 48 | 15 | 8 | 26 | 3 | [264] |
| Establish a small tax on all trading in stocks and bonds and other financial market trades. For example, for every ten thousand dollars in a trade the tax would be three dollars * | 61 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 12 | 20 | 7 | [249] |
| Eliminate tax breaks for oil companies ** | 59 | 36 | 40 | 19 | 13 | 23 | 5 | [263] |
| Limit tax deductions for people making over two hundred fifty thousand dollars a year * | 55 | 41 | 26 | 29 | 18 | 23 | 4 | [246] |
| Reduce the annual cost-of-living increase for Social Security benefits ** | 29 | 65 | 13 | 16 | 14 | 51 | 6 | [262] |
| Cut the Medicaid health program ** | 17 | 80 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 63 | 3 | [261] |
| Cut spending on K-through-twelve public education * | 13 | 83 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 71 | 4 | [251] |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

21. Later this year Congress will consider legislation to reform the tax system by closing corporate loopholes and limiting deductions for the wealthy. In your opinion, which of the following should tax revenue from these reforms be used for?

| | | |
|--|----|--------------|
| Reduce the budget deficit and make new investments | 82 | [257] |
| Reduce tax rates on corporations and the wealthy | 9 | |
| Not sure | 9 | |

22a. **Now I'm going to read you a pair of statements about corporate tax reform, and please tell me whether you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement.**

Republicans say, "America has the highest income tax rates on businesses in the world. We need tax reform that broadens the base by eliminating loopholes, which will allow us to reduce corporate tax rates. This kind of pro-growth tax reform will make the system simpler, more fair, grow our economy, and raise more revenue."

Democrats say, "The tax system is rigged in favor of special interests against the middle class. Large companies like General Electric and Verizon pay no federal income taxes some years, while Apple avoids billions in taxes by stashing profits in offshore tax havens. It's about time big corporations started living by the same rules as the rest of us."

Do you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement? **(IF RESPONDENT MAKES A CHOICE, ASK:)** Do you agree with that statement strongly or not so strongly? *

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Agree With Republicans | 30 | |
| Strongly | 21 | [258] |
| Not so strongly | 9 | |
| Agree With Democrats | 62 | |
| Not so strongly | 12 | |
| Strongly | 50 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 4 | |
| Not sure..... | 4 | |
| ----- | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 32 | |

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

22b. **Now I'm going to read you a pair of statements about the issue of taxing profits that corporations make in other countries, and please tell me whether you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement.**

Republicans say, "We need a corporate tax system that ensures our companies can compete against foreign companies on a level playing field. Our tax system needs to be changed so that companies bring their overseas earnings back home to create jobs and invest in American workers."

Democrats say, "It's time to stop corporate tax dodging and invest in the U.S. again. If we close tax loopholes for corporations that ship profits and jobs offshore, we can raise billions of dollars to invest in America--making classrooms less crowded, improving roads and bridges, and making us energy independent."

Do you agree more with the Republicans' statement or more with the Democrats' statement? **(IF RESPONDENT MAKES A CHOICE, ASK:)** Do you agree with that statement strongly or not so strongly? **

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Agree With Republicans | 35 | |
| Strongly | 25 | [259] |
| Not so strongly | 10 | |
| Agree With Democrats | 55 | |
| Not so strongly | 16 | |
| Strongly | 39 | |
| Neither (VOL) | 4 | |
| Not sure..... | 6 | |
| ----- | | |
| Diff: Democrats - Republicans | 20 | |

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

| | | |
|--|----|------------------|
| Grade school | - | [260/261] |
| Some high school | 2 | |
| High school graduate | 21 | |
| Some college, no degree | 19 | |
| Vocational training/2-year college | 10 | |
| 4-year college/bachelor's degree | 25 | |
| Some postgraduate work, no degree..... | 3 | |
| 2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree | 14 | |
| Doctoral/law degree | 2 | |
| Not sure/refused | 4 | |

F2. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

| | | |
|-------------------|----|--------------|
| Liberal..... | 22 | [262] |
| Moderate | 32 | |
| Conservative..... | 38 | |
| Not sure..... | 8 | |

F3. Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party Movement?

| | | |
|---------------|----|--------------|
| Yes | 24 | [263] |
| No..... | 63 | |
| Not sure..... | 13 | |

F4. Are you a member of a labor union?

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT A UNION MEMBER OR ARE NOT SURE IN Q.F4a.)

F4b. Is anyone else in this household a member of a labor union?

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|------------------|
| Labor union member | 11 | [264/265] |
| Labor union household..... | 7 | |
| Non-union household | 77 | |
| Not sure..... | 5 | |

F5. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand dollars and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and sixty thousand dollars, between sixty thousand dollars and eighty thousand dollars, between eighty thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, or would the total be more than one hundred thousand dollars?

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| Less than \$20,000 | 7 | [266] |
| Between \$20,000 and \$40,000 | 14 | |
| Between \$40,000 and \$60,000..... | 17 | |
| Between \$60,000 and \$80,000..... | 13 | |
| Between \$80,000 and \$100,000..... | 9 | |
| More than \$100,000 | 22 | |
| Not sure/refused | 18 | |

F6. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? **(IF "REFUSED," ASK:)** Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

| | | |
|------------------|----|------------------|
| 18-24..... | 10 | [150/151] |
| 25-29..... | 8 | |
| 30-34..... | 9 | |
| 35-39..... | 9 | |
| 40-44..... | 7 | |
| 45-49..... | 8 | |
| 50-54..... | 8 | |
| 55-59..... | 10 | |
| 60-64..... | 10 | |
| 65-69..... | 9 | |
| 70-74..... | 6 | |
| 75 and over..... | 6 | |
| Refused | - | |

F7. Again, for statistical purposes only, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

| | | |
|------------------------|----|--------------|
| Yes, Hispanic..... | 10 | [152] |
| No, not Hispanic | 90 | |
| Not sure/refused | - | |

F8. And to ensure that we have a representative sample, what is your race--white, black or African American, Asian, or something else?

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------------|
| White | 78 | [153] |
| Black/African American | 12 | |
| Asian | - | |
| Other | 3 | |
| Hispanic (VOL) | 6 | |
| Not sure/refused | 1 | |