

---

The Washington Post



**Toplines**

*The Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation  
Dimensions of Partisanship Survey*

**August 2012**

---

## Methodology

The *Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey Project is a partnership and an experiment in combining survey research and reporting to better inform the public. The *Dimensions of Partisanship* survey, the 25<sup>th</sup> in this partnership series, was conducted by telephone from July 25 - August 5, 2012 among a representative random sample of 3,130 adults ages 18 and older living in the contiguous United States (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (2,023) and cell phone (1,107, including 540 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Social Science Research Solutions. Both the landline and cell phone samples were generated through Marketing Systems Group's GENESYS sampling system. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the adult male or female with the most recent birthday currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with a household member of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population data from the 2011 March Supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), region, and population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the July - December 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. Weighted and unweighted values for key demographic variables are shown in the table below.

Sample Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	50%	49%
Female	50%	51%
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	12%	21%
30-49	26%	35%
50-64	34%	26%
65+	28%	17%
<b>Education</b>		
Less than HS Grad.	7%	13%
HS Grad.	27%	33%
Some College	24%	26%
College Grad.	41%	28%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White/not Hispanic	76%	68%
Black/not Hispanic	9%	11%
Hisp - US born	5%	6%
Hisp - born outside	5%	8%
Other/not Hispanic	6%	6%
<b>Party Identification</b>		
Democrat	33%	34%
Independent	34%	34%
Republican	27%	25%

Representatives of *The Washington Post* and the Kaiser Family Foundation worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results. Each organization bears the sole responsibility for the work that appears under its name. The project team from the Kaiser Family Foundation included: Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Claudia Deane, Sarah Cho, and Bianca DiJulio. The project team from *The Washington Post* included: Jon Cohen, Peyton Craighill, and Scott Clement.

See below for information on the margin of sampling error including the design effect. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margin of sampling errors for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Population	Number Interviewed	Margin of sampling error
Total	3,130	±2 percentage points
Democrats	1,027	±4 percentage points
Independents	1,054	±4 percentage points
Republicans	846	±4 percentage points

The response rate calculated based on the American Association of Public Opinion Research's Response Rate 3 formula was 19.6 percent for the landline sample and 14.5 percent for the cell phone sample.

Full information about the survey is available at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8341.cfm>

Please note: (1) Table percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. (2) Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (\*). (3) "vol." indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent and not an explicitly offered choice.

1. How satisfied are you with the way this country's political system is working - would you say very satisfied, mostly satisfied, mostly dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	---- Satisfied ----			--- Dissatisfied --			No opinion
	NET	Very	Mostly	NET	Mostly	Very	
8/5/12	32	6	26	67	29	38	2
Dem	47	10	37	50	28	22	2
Ind	25	4	21	73	29	44	1
Rep	19	3	16	81	30	51	*
10/2/11	20	2	18	79	38	41	1
8/9/11	21	2	19	78	33	45	1
11/23/09	38	4	34	61	30	31	1
6/3/07	34	5	29	64	34	30	1

2. Thinking about the 2012 presidential election campaign so far, would you say that you're...very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested, or not interested at all?

	----- Interested ----			----- Not interested -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
8/5/12	79	53	26	21	10	10	1
Dem	82	55	27	17	10	7	*
Ind	73	46	27	27	13	14	*
Rep	86	64	22	14	8	6	*
6/3/07	85	49	36	15	10	5	1

3. Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? Is there another one of these issues that worries you?

8/5/12 - summary table

	First	Second	- First and second -			
	mention	mention	NET	Dem	Ind	Rep
The job situation	35	24	59	63	60	55
The cost of health care	22	23	44	49	40	41
The federal budget deficit	21	16	37	22	39	56
The cost of college education	8	12	20	28	16	14
Problems in the housing markets	4	9	13	14	14	10
General economic issues	1	1	3	3	3	2
Dysfunctional/self-serving politicians/Congressmen	1	1	2	2	2	1
Social issues	1	*	1	1	1	1
All of them	1	1	2	1	3	2
Nothing/none of them/None	*	11	*	*	0	0
Other or something else	4	2	6	5	6	6
No opinion	1	1	1	1	1	0

4. OTHER than the economy and jobs what will be the most important issue in your choice for president?

	----- 8/5/12 -----			
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Health care/Obamacare	14	19	12	13
Federal budget deficit	5	4	5	6
Foreign policy	5	4	6	4
Personal characteristics	5	5	5	5
Ethics/honesty/corruption in government	4	2	5	4
Education	4	5	4	2
Immigration/illegal immigration	3	3	3	3
Morals/family values	3	1	3	5
Beating Obama/electing Romney				
/Supporting the Republicans	3	1	2	6
Address social issues	2	4	2	1
Beating Romney/re-electing Obama				
/Supporting the Democrats	2	4	2	1
Taxes	2	2	2	2
Terrorism/national security	2	2	1	3
Abortion	1	1	1	3
Afghanistan/War in Afghanistan	1	1	1	1
Banks/Financial institutions	1	1	1	*
Change	1	1	2	2
Environment	1	1	1	1
Experience	1	*	1	1
Gas/oil prices/energy/ethanol	1	*	1	*
Gay marriage	1	2	1	1
Guns/Gun control	1	*	*	1
Helping the middle class	1	2	*	*
Housing/mortgages	1	1	2	1
Social Security	1	1	1	*
Adherence to restoration of constitution	1	*	1	3
Leadership ability/ability to run country	1	*	1	3
Bipartisan collaboration/work with Congress	1	1	2	*
Well-being of Americans/care about the people/understand them/listen to them	1	1	*	1
None/nothing other than economy/jobs	5	5	6	4
Other	5	5	6	4
No opinion	17	17	17	14

5/6. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other/None	No opinion
8/5/12	34	25	34	4	3
6/3/07	36	27	29	4	3
8/18/98	30	27	30	12	1

7. (ASK IF NON-PARTISAN) Do you lean more towards the: (Democratic) or (Republican) Party?

	-- Democrat/lean D--			Pure	-Republican/Lean R-			Other/	No
	NET	Dem	Lean Dem	Independent	NET	Lean Rep	Rep	None (vol.)	opin.
8/5/12	49	34	15	9	39	14	25	2	2
6/3/07	50	36	14	9	37	10	27	2	2
8/18/98	43	30	13	7	38	11	27	12	1

8. (AMONG INDEPENDENTS) Have you always thought of yourself as an independent, or have you thought of yourself as a (Democrat) or a (Republican) in the past?

	Always independent	Thought of self as a Democrat in past	Thought of self as a Republican in past	Both (Vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	56	22	16	4	1
6/3/07	59	21	14	4	2

9. (AMONG REPUBLICANS) Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

	Strong	Not very strong	No opinion
8/5/12	65	34	2
6/3/07	58	39	2
8/18/98	41	58	1

10. (AMONG DEMOCRATS) Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

	Strong	Not very strong	No opinion
8/5/12	62	37	1
6/3/07	53	44	2
8/18/98	45	54	1

11. In your view, is the leadership of the (INSERT) currently taking the party in the (right direction) or in the (wrong direction)?

a. Republican Party

	Right direction	Wrong direction	No opinion
Among Republicans:			
8/5/12	61	28	11
11/23/09	52	40	8
11/2/05	79	20	2
Among independents:			
8/5/12	28	60	12
11/23/09	43	45	12
11/2/05	73	26	1

Q11 continued on next page.

b. Democratic Party

	Right direction	Wrong direction	No opinion
Among Democrats:			
8/5/12	71	18	11
11/2/05	67	25	8
Among independents:			
8/5/12	31	58	11
11/2/05	56	37	8

12. (AMONG INDEPENDENTS) Overall, which party, the (Democratic) or the (Republican), does a better job representing your views on (INSERT)?

8/5/12 - Summary table

	Democratic party	Republican party	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. The economy	36	43	2	13	5
b. Health care	43	40	1	10	6
c. The federal budget deficit	27	43	2	18	10
d. Taxes	39	41	1	12	6
e. Social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage	44	33	2	13	8
f. Foreign policy	39	36	3	12	10

Trend

a. The economy

	Democratic party	Republican party	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	36	43	2	13	5
6/3/07	37	34	4	16	9

b. Health care

	Democratic party	Republican party	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	43	40	1	10	6
6/3/07	48	20	2	19	10

c. The federal budget deficit

	Democratic party	Republican party	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	27	43	2	18	10
6/3/07	39	23	3	20	15

d. Taxes

	Democratic party	Republican party	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	39	41	1	12	6
6/3/07	40	30	2	17	11

Q12 continued on next page.

e. Social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage

	Democratic party	Republican party	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	44	33	2	13	8
6/3/07	43	26	3	17	11

f. no trend

13. (AMONG DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS AND NON-PARTISANS) What's more important to you - that Democrats (stick with their positions on important issues, even if it means a lack of cooperation with Republicans); or that Democrats (try to cooperate across party lines, even if it means compromising on important issues)?

	Democrats stick with positions	Try to cooperate across party lines	No opinion
8/5/12	32	62	6
Dem	43	54	3
Ind	23	71	7

14. (AMONG REPUBLICANS, INDEPENDENTS AND NON-PARTISANS) What's more important to you - that Republicans (stick with their positions on important issues, even if it means a lack of cooperation with Democrats); or that Republicans (try to cooperate across party lines, even if it means compromising on important issues)?

	Republicans stick with positions	Try to cooperate across party lines	No opinion
8/5/12	36	59	5
Ind	25	70	5
Rep	54	43	3

15. In general do you think the policies of the (INSERT) mainly (help) or mainly (hurt) the economic interests of you and your family?

a. Democratic party

	Help	Hurt	Don't make much difference (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	45	45	4	5
Dem	78	15	3	4
Ind	39	49	6	6
Rep	12	83	2	3

b. Republican party

	Help	Hurt	Don't make much difference (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	37	51	5	7
Dem	13	77	3	6
Ind	38	49	7	7
Rep	71	21	3	5



16. Do you think (INSERT) generally shares most of your moral and ethical values, some of your moral and ethical values, or hardly any?

a. The Democratic Party

	Most	Some	Hardly any	None (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	25	43	27	3	2
Dem	53	38	7	*	1
Ind	14	51	28	3	4
Rep	4	38	52	5	1
8/18/98	21	47	18	8	6

b. The Republican Party

	Most	Some	Hardly any	None (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	23	41	31	3	2
Dem	5	36	51	7	2
Ind	18	48	29	2	3
Rep	56	37	6	*	*
8/18/98	20	47	17	11	6

17. Which comes closer to the way you feel: (government regulation of big businesses and corporations is necessary to protect the public) or (government regulation of big businesses and corporations does more harm than good)?

	Regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest	Regulation usually does more harm than good	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	49	44	3	5
Dem	65	29	1	4
Ind	48	45	3	4
Rep	30	64	3	3
9/1/02	59	34	1	6
9/99*	51	43	-	6
8/18/98	53	40	3	4
6/97	59	36	-	5
10/96	56	39	-	5
10/95	63	34	-	3
4/95	63	34	-	3
10/94	64	32	-	4
7/94	66	31	-	3

\*1999 and earlier Pew trend

18. Would you say you favor a (smaller federal government with fewer services), or (larger federal government with many services)?

	Smaller govt. fewer services	Larger govt. more services	No opinion
8/5/12	55	40	5
Dem	30	65	6
Ind	61	32	6
Rep	80	18	2
9/1/11	56	38	6
10/28/10 RV	57	37	5
4/25/10	56	40	4
1/15/10	58	38	4
6/21/09	54	41	4
1/16/09	53	43	4
6/15/08	50	45	5
11/1/07	50	44	5
6/20/04	50	46	4
11/4/02 LV	61	34	5
11/3/02 LV	60	34	5
11/2/02 LV	62	34	3
7/15/02	53	42	6
1/27/02	54	41	5
10/9/00 RV	58	32	10
10/1/00 RV	58	33	9
7/23/00	59	34	7
4/2/00	56	38	7
8/18/98	59	35	6
8/5/96	63	32	5
2/28/93	67	30	2
7/8/92	55	38	7
7/13/88	49	45	6
7/8/84	49	43	7

19. Which of these views comes closer to your own? (The government in Washington should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans) or (This is not the government's responsibility, each person should take care of themselves)?

	Gov't in Washington should do everything possible to improve the standard of living	Not gov't responsibility, each person should take care of themselves	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	52	44	NA	4
Dem	76	20	NA	4
Ind	47	48	NA	4
Rep	26	71	NA	3
9/1/02	56	39	2	3
8/30/99	57	38	4	1
8/18/98	51	46	-	3

20. Do you personally agree or disagree with the following statement? (INSERT). Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

a. Government controls too much of our daily lives

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	60	41	19	39	21	18	1	1
Dem	38	21	17	58	27	31	1	2
Ind	65	45	21	34	21	12	1	*
Rep	81	63	18	18	11	8	*	*
8/18/98	60	35	26	39	28	10	1	*

b. There are many goods and services which would not be available to ordinary people without government intervention

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	67	34	33	29	14	16	1	3
Dem	80	49	31	18	11	8	*	2
Ind	66	33	33	30	15	15	*	3
Rep	55	18	37	42	16	25	1	2
8/18/98	77	34	43	20	13	7	1	2

21. Do you think that people and groups that hold values similar to yours are (gaining) influence in American life in general these days, or do you think that they are (losing) influence?

	Gaining	Losing	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	34	59	3	4
Dem	32	61	3	4
Ind	34	58	4	5
Rep	36	59	2	3
4/24/05	33	58	6	2
8/18/98	35	55	6	4

22. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view: (organized religious groups of all kinds should stay out of politics) or (it is important for organized religious groups to stand up for their beliefs in politics)?

	Organized religion stay out of politics	Organized religion stand up in politics	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	55	42	2	1
Dem	62	35	2	1
Ind	59	38	2	1
Rep	38	60	1	1
9/17/00	45	51	2	2
8/18/98	45	52	1	1

23. Which comes closer to your view: (The government should take special steps to protect America's religious heritage) or (There should be a high degree of separation between church and state)?

	Gov't take special steps to protect religious heritage	Should be a high degree of separation between church and state	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	40	55	2	2
Dem	34	62	1	3
Ind	36	60	2	2
Rep	56	40	2	2
8/18/98	48	47	3	2

24. Would you rather see religious and spiritual values have (more) influence in politics and public life than they do now, (less) influence, or about the same influence as they do now?

	More influence	Less influence	About the same	No opinion
8/5/12	30	36	32	2
Dem	21	42	35	1
Ind	26	39	33	2
Rep	49	21	28	2
9/1/02*	44	21	33	2
8/18/98*	38	22	38	2

\*2002 and 1998: Would you rather see religious and spiritual values have (greater /less) influence...

25. Now I will read you some statements. Will you tell me for each one whether it is something you personally agree with or disagree with? First/Next, (INSERT). Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

a. The world is always changing and we should adjust our morals and values to those changes

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	47	26	21	52	14	38	1	1
Dem	61	35	26	37	12	25	1	1
Ind	47	27	20	52	15	37	*	1
Rep	27	12	16	71	14	57	1	1
9/17/00	39	17	22	60	19	40	NA	1
8/18/98	42	18	25	57	18	39	*	*

b. We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own moral standards even if we think they are wrong

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	75	44	31	23	11	12	1	1
Dem	80	54	27	18	8	10	1	1
Ind	75	46	29	23	12	11	*	2
Rep	68	29	38	30	13	17	1	1
9/17/00	71	37	35	26	14	12	NA	2
8/18/98	70	30	40	27	15	12	1	1

Q25 continued on next page.

e. Americans are too tolerant and accepting of behaviors that in the past were considered immoral or wrong

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	61	38	23	36	17	19	1	2
Dem	53	29	24	44	18	26	*	3
Ind	57	34	23	40	20	20	1	2
Rep	77	55	22	20	12	9	*	2
9/17/00	70	43	28	28	16	12	NA	2
8/18/98	69	42	27	29	18	11	1	1

26a. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

	NET	----- Legal -----		----- Illegal -----			No opinion
		All cases	Most cases	NET	Most cases	All cases	
8/5/12	55	19	36	42	25	17	3
Dem	70	28	42	28	17	11	2
Ind	58	19	39	39	25	15	3
Rep	34	9	25	63	38	25	2
3/10/12	54	21	33	43	25	17	3
7/17/11	54	19	35	44	30	15	2
3/26/10	53	17	35	45	27	18	2
11/23/09	54	19	35	43	28	16	2
6/21/09	55	20	35	43	26	17	2
9/7/08 RV	57	19	38	39	24	15	4
8/22/08	54	22	32	44	26	18	3
6/15/08	53	18	35	44	28	16	3
1/12/08	57	21	36	40	25	15	3
12/9/07	53	18	35	44	27	17	3
11/1/07	55	19	36	43	27	16	2
7/21/07	56	23	34	41	28	14	2
2/25/07	56	16	39	42	31	12	2
12/18/05	56	17	40	41	27	13	3
4/24/05	56	20	36	42	27	14	3
12/19/04	55	21	34	42	25	17	3
5/23/04	54	23	31	44	23	20	2
1/20/03	57	23	34	42	25	17	2
8/12/01	49	22	27	48	28	20	3
6/24/01	52	22	31	43	23	20	4
1/15/01	59	21	38	39	25	14	1
9/6/00 RV	55	20	35	42	25	16	3
7/23/00	53	20	33	43	26	17	4
9/2/99	56	20	37	42	26	15	2
3/14/99	55	21	34	42	27	15	3
7/12/98	54	19	35	42	29	13	4
8/5/96	56	22	34	41	27	14	3
6/30/96	58	24	34	40	25	14	2
10/1/95	60	26	35	37	25	12	3
9/21/95	60	24	36	36	25	11	4
7/17/95	59	27	32	40	26	14	1

Q26 continued on next page.

26b. Do you think it should be LEGAL or ILLEGAL for gay and lesbian couples to get married? Do you feel that way STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/5/12	53	39	14	42	11	32	5
Dem	68	52	16	27	8	19	5
Ind	57	42	15	39	11	27	4
Rep	30	18	12	67	13	54	3
5/20/12	53	39	14	39	7	32	8
3/10/12	52	36	17	43	7	36	5
7/17/11	51	32	19	45	9	36	4
3/13/11	53	36	17	44	9	35	3
2/8/10	47	31	16	50	9	42	3
4/24/09*	49	31	18	46	7	39	5
6/4/06	36	24	13	58	7	51	5
8/28/05	39	NA	NA	58	NA	NA	3
8/29/04 RV	32	18	14	62	10	52	5
3/7/04	38	24	14	59	11	48	3
2/22/04	39	25	13	55	6	49	6
1/18/04	41	NA	NA	55	NA	NA	4
9/7/03	37	NA	NA	55	NA	NA	7

\*2009 "gay and lesbian" and "homosexual" wordings half sampled. 2005 "gay and lesbian"; 2003 to 2004 and 2006 "homosexual".

27. Do you personally agree or disagree with the following statement? Do you agree/disagree strongly or somewhat?

a. People should take responsibility for their own lives and economic well-being and not expect other people to help

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	75	49	26	23	13	10	1	1
Dem	62	34	28	36	20	16	1	1
Ind	79	51	28	19	10	9	1	1
Rep	86	66	19	13	7	5	1	1
8/18/98	78	47	31	21	14	7	1	*

b. Most people who don't get ahead should not blame the system, they have only themselves to blame

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	65	38	28	33	17	16	1	1
Dem	54	29	25	44	22	22	1	1
Ind	66	39	27	31	16	16	1	1
Rep	81	49	31	18	11	7	1	1
8/18/98	71	36	36	27	19	8	1	*

c. One of the big problems in this country is that we don't give everyone an equal chance

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	52	36	16	46	17	29	1	1
Dem	72	52	19	28	13	15	1	*
Ind	50	34	17	49	17	31	*	1
Rep	29	17	13	69	22	47	*	1
8/18/98	65	40	25	33	17	16	1	1

Q27 continued on next page.

d. If people were treated more equally in this country we would have many fewer problems

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			Neither (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
8/5/12	70	49	20	28	12	16	1	1
Dem	83	65	18	15	7	8	1	1
Ind	69	50	20	28	13	15	1	1
Rep	51	29	23	45	16	29	1	2
9/17/00	80	58	22	19	10	9	NA	2
8/18/98	79	55	24	19	11	7	1	1

Moving onto the economy...

28. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No opinion
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
8/5/12	13	1	12	87	42	44	*
Dem	22	1	21	78	50	27	*
Ind	10	1	9	89	41	49	*
Rep	5	*	5	95	37	58	*
5/20/12	17	1	16	83	47	36	*
2/4/12	11	*	11	89	46	42	*
11/3/11	10	1	9	89	43	47	*
7/17/11	10	1	9	90	40	50	*
6/5/11	11	1	10	89	46	44	*
1/16/11	13	1	12	87	45	41	*
10/28/10	9	*	9	90	41	49	1
10/3/10	9	1	8	90	40	50	*
9/2/10	8	*	7	92	40	53	0
7/11/10	10	1	9	90	44	46	0
6/6/10	12	*	11	88	43	45	0
1/16/09	5	1	5	94	32	62	*
9/22/08	9	*	9	91	34	57	*
4/13/08	10	1	9	90	39	51	*
2/1/08	19	1	18	81	43	38	0
12/9/07	28	3	25	72	40	32	*
11/1/07	35	3	32	64	39	26	*
4/15/07	42	5	37	57	37	20	*
12/11/06	50	7	42	50	36	14	*
10/22/06	55	10	45	45	28	17	*
10/8/06	47	7	40	53	37	16	*
3/5/06	43	5	38	57	37	19	*
1/26/06	40	5	35	60	37	23	*
12/18/05	45	5	39	55	38	17	*
11/2/05	35	3	32	65	36	29	*
9/11/05	40	3	37	59	37	22	1
6/5/05	44	3	40	56	38	19	*
4/24/05	37	2	35	63	44	20	*
9/26/04	RV	3	43	53	38	15	1
8/29/04	RV	3	41	55	37	18	*
7/25/04	46	4	42	53	39	14	*
6/20/04	45	4	41	55	38	17	*
4/18/04	43	4	39	57	39	18	*
3/7/04	39	2	37	60	38	22	1
1/18/04	42	3	39	58	42	16	0
12/21/03	42	4	39	57	41	16	1
10/29/03	33	1	32	67	45	23	*
9/13/03	30	2	27	70	45	25	*

Q28 continued on next page.

Q28 continued

		----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
		NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
8/11/03		32	2	30	68	43	25	*
4/30/03		35	1	34	64	46	19	*
2/9/03		28	1	27	72	49	23	*
1/20/03		25	1	25	74	48	26	1
12/15/02		35	1	33	65	44	21	1
11/4/02	LV	28	1	27	72	55	17	1
11/3/02	LV	27	1	26	72	56	17	1
11/2/02	LV	29	1	28	71	54	17	*
9/26/02		31	2	28	69	50	19	*
7/15/02		39	3	36	61	44	17	1
2/21/02		30	1	29	69	51	18	*
1/27/02		31	1	29	69	50	19	*
9/20/01		38	3	35	60	47	14	2
9/9/01		33	1	32	66	47	19	*
7/30/01		50	3	46	50	39	12	*
4/22/01		50	3	47	50	40	9	*
1/15/01		70	10	59	29	24	6	1
10/27/00	LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
10/26/00	LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
6/11/00		74	17	57	26	19	6	*
2/27/00		80	25	55	20	14	5	*
10/31/99		74	18	56	26	18	7	1
9/2/99		76	19	57	23	16	6	1
3/14/99		80	22	58	19	15	4	1
11/1/98		73	12	61	26	21	5	1
11/1/98	LV	78	13	65	22	19	3	*
10/13/97		61	12	49	39	27	11	*

29. Which of these do you think is more important right now - (increasing federal spending to try to create jobs and improve the economy); or (avoiding a big increase in the federal budget deficit)?

	Increasing Spending	Avoiding Deficit	No opinion
8/5/12	48	48	4
Dem	73	25	3
Ind	42	53	4
Rep	24	73	2
10/3/10	50	46	4



30. Thinking specifically about the JOB SITUATION in the country, please tell me whether each of the following would (help), (hurt) or not make much of a difference?

a. Cutting personal income taxes

	Help	Hurt	Not make much difference	No opinion
8/5/12	51	23	23	3
Dem	42	30	24	4
Ind	51	21	25	3
Rep	62	16	20	1

b. Cutting taxes on businesses

	Help	Hurt	Not make much difference	No opinion
8/5/12	54	21	21	4
Dem	41	31	24	3
Ind	55	18	22	4
Rep	71	12	14	3

c. Budget cuts to reduce the federal deficit

	Help	Hurt	Not make much difference	No opinion
8/5/12	53	22	20	5
Dem	39	29	25	7
Ind	56	20	19	5
Rep	66	13	16	4

d. Additional spending on roads, bridges, and other public works projects

	Help	Hurt	Not make much difference	No opinion
8/5/12	63	13	22	1
Dem	71	10	17	1
Ind	66	12	21	1
Rep	53	16	30	1

e. Raising taxes on businesses that move manufacturing jobs overseas

	Help	Hurt	Not make much difference	No opinion
8/5/12	54	32	12	2
Dem	61	27	10	2
Ind	55	32	12	2
Rep	47	37	14	2

31. Please tell me if you would support or oppose each of the following to help reduce the nation's budget deficit.

a. Raising taxes on households with incomes of 250 thousand dollars per year and higher

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	65	33	2
Dem	82	17	1
Ind	62	35	3
Rep	46	53	1
10/9/11*	68	27	5

\*Washington Post-Bloomberg

b. Raising taxes on the middle class

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	11	88	1
Dem	13	85	2
Ind	11	88	1
Rep	7	92	*
10/9/11*	18	79	4

\*Washington Post-Bloomberg

c. Reducing Social Security benefits (half sample)

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	17	82	1
Dem	11	88	1
Ind	20	79	1
Rep	22	76	2
10/9/11*	13	83	4

\*Washington Post-Bloomberg

d. Reducing Social Security benefits for those with high incomes (half sample)

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	57	39	3
Dem	62	36	2
Ind	60	37	3
Rep	51	45	4

e. Reducing Medicare benefits (half sample)

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	21	77	2
Dem	14	85	1
Ind	24	73	3
Rep	28	69	3
10/9/11*	14	82	4

\*Washington Post-Bloomberg

f. Reducing Medicare benefits for those with high incomes (half sample)

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	63	35	3
Dem	65	33	3
Ind	66	32	2
Rep	61	36	2

Q31 continued on next page.

g. Reducing military spending

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
8/5/12	46	51	3
Dem	55	42	2
Ind	48	48	4
Rep	30	68	2
10/9/11*	51	42	7

\*Washington Post-Bloomberg

32. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
8/5/12	42	18	24	47	17	30	11
Dem	64	34	30	23	14	9	12
Ind	40	12	28	49	16	33	11
Rep	15	4	11	77	21	56	7
7/12*	38	20	18	44	13	31	17
6/12	41	25	16	41	11	30	18
5/12	37	17	20	34	12	32	19
4/12	42	20	22	43	9	34	15
3/12	41	18	23	40	11	29	19
2/12	42	17	25	43	16	27	15
1/12	37	18	19	44	14	30	19
12/11	41	19	22	43	15	28	17
11/11	37	17	20	44	15	29	19
10/11	34	12	22	51	20	31	15
9/11	41	18	23	43	14	29	16
8/11	39	16	23	44	17	27	17
7/11	42	20	22	43	12	31	15
6/11	42	15	27	46	16	30	12
5/11	42	19	23	44	15	29	14
4/11	41	20	21	41	14	27	18
3/11	42	21	21	46	15	31	13
2/11	43	16	27	48	19	29	8
1/11	41	19	22	50	16	34	9
12/10	42	22	20	41	14	27	18
11/10	42	19	23	40	12	28	18
10/10	42	18	24	44	15	29	15
9/10	49	19	30	40	15	25	11
8/10	43	19	24	45	13	32	12
7/10	50	21	29	35	10	25	14
6/10	48	20	28	41	16	25	10
5/10	41	14	27	44	12	32	14
4/10	46	23	23	40	10	30	14

\*April 2010 through July 2012 Kaiser Family Foundation trend

33. Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future? OPTION A: Medicare should continue as it is today, with the government guaranteeing all seniors the same set of health insurance benefits, or OPTION B: Medicare should be changed to a system in which the government guarantees each senior a fixed amount of money to help them purchase coverage either from traditional Medicare or from a list of private health plans?

	Option A Medicare continue	Option B Medicare privatize	Other (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	58	36	1	4
Dem	68	29	1	3
Ind	53	42	1	4
Rep	55	39	1	5

34. Do you support or oppose putting a special tax on junk food - that is, things like soda, chips, and candy - and using the money for programs to fight obesity? Is that strongly or somewhat?)

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/5/12	53	35	18	47	12	35	1
Dem	66	43	22	34	10	23	*
Ind	48	32	15	51	12	39	1
Rep	42	26	16	57	13	45	*
2/8/04*	40	18	22	57	17	40	3

\*Kaiser Family Foundation trend

35. Do you think ILLEGAL immigrants who are living and working in the United States now (should be offered a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status), or do you think they (should be deported back to their native country)?

	Should be offered chance to keep jobs/apply legal status	Should be deported back to native country	No opinion
8/5/12	61	35	3
Dem	75	23	2
Ind	59	38	3
Rep	47	49	5
6/3/07	59	36	5

36. Do you think the federal government should or should not regulate the release of greenhouse gases from sources like power plants, cars and factories in an effort to reduce global warming? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Should -----			----- Should not -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/5/12	74	51	23	21	8	13	5
Dem	87	68	19	8	3	4	5
Ind	73	51	22	22	7	15	5
Rep	61	31	31	35	14	20	4
6/6/10	71	52	19	26	7	19	4
12/13/09	65	50	15	29	9	20	6
6/21/09	75	53	22	22	9	13	3
4/24/09	75	54	21	21	9	12	4

37. Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in this country? Is that strongly or somewhat (favor/oppose)?

	Favor			Oppose			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/5/12	51	39	11	47	10	37	2
Dem	76	64	12	23	6	17	1
Ind	44	33	10	55	12	42	2
Rep	30	18	12	68	12	56	2
1/16/11	52	39	13	45	12	33	3
4/24/09	51	36	14	48	12	36	1
9/7/08 RV	50	31	19	45	14	30	5
4/22/07	61	41	20	36	12	23	3
10/8/06	61	45	16	37	15	22	2
5/12/02	57	39	19	37	15	22	6
1/15/01	59	46	13	39	13	26	2
5/10/00	67	50	17	30	9	22	3
4/2/00	64	49	14	34	13	21	2
9/2/99	63	52	11	35	11	25	2
8/15/99	63	46	16	34	12	22	3
5/16/99	67	55	12	31	10	21	1
10/13/93*	64	40	24	33	13	20	3
6/8/89*	60	28	32	34	11	23	6

\*Gallup trend: "Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose enacting tougher gun control laws?"

38. I would like you to think about the role the U.S. should play in trying to solve international problems. Do you think the US should take the leading role in world affairs, take a major role, but not the leading role, take a minor role, or take no role at all in world affairs?

	Leading role	Major role but not leading	Minor role	No role at all	No opinion
8/5/12	14	48	27	9	3
Dem	13	52	23	9	3
Ind	13	46	29	10	2
Rep	19	45	28	6	2
2/12/12*	17	43	26	11	3

\*Kaiser Family Foundation trend

39. As it conducts the war on terrorism, do you think the United States government is or is not doing enough to protect the civil liberties of American citizens?

	Doing enough	Not doing enough	No opinion
8/5/12	67	30	3
Dem	70	27	4
Ind	64	33	3
Rep	67	31	3
6/3/07	48	48	5

40. Are you registered to vote at your present address or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
8/5/12	82	18	1
Dem	83	17	1
Ind	79	20	1
Rep	89	10	1

41. (AMONG THOSE NOT REGISTERED) Do you plan to register to vote, or is there a chance that you may not register?

	Plan to register	Chance may not	No opinion
8/5/12	48	48	4
Dem	52	43	5
Ind	41	53	6

42./43. If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Barack Obama, the Democrat) and (Mitt Romney, the Republican), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Obama) or toward (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12 RV	50	43	1	2	1	3
Dem	90	6	*	1	*	1
Ind	45	42	3	4	2	4
Rep	9	89	*	1	*	1
8/5/12 ALL	52	40	1	3	1	3
Dem	91	6	*	1	*	1
Ind	47	40	3	4	2	4
Rep	10	87	*	1	*	2

44. (AMONG THOSE WHO NAMED A CANDIDATE) Will you definitely vote for (NAMED CANDIDATE), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else? (IF CHANCE COULD CHANGE MIND) Would you say there's a good chance you'll change your mind, or it's pretty unlikely?

	Definitely vote for	-Chance change mind - NET	Good	Unlikely	No opinion
8/5/12	68	29	13	16	3
Dem	81	18	6	12	2
Ind	55	40	19	21	4
Rep	68	30	14	16	2
Obama supporters:					
8/5/12	72	26	11	15	3
Dem	83	15	4	11	2
Ind	55	42	20	22	4
Romney supporters:					
8/5/12	64	32	15	17	4
Ind	55	40	19	21	5
Rep	71	27	13	14	3

45. Did you happen to vote in the last presidential election, when Barack Obama ran against John McCain, or did you skip that one?

Did vote	74
Did not vote	25
No opinion	*

46. (Among those who did not vote at the last presidential election) Which candidate did you vote for?

Barack Obama	56
John McCain	41
Someone else	3
No opinion	*

47. In presidential elections, would you say you always vote Democratic, mostly vote Democratic, vote for Republicans and Democrats about equally, mostly vote Republican, or always vote Republican?

	Always Dem	Mostly Dem	Dem/Rep equally	Mostly Rep	Always Rep	Don't vote (vol.)	No opinion
8/5/12	17	21	26	20	8	5	3
Dem	42	37	16	1	*	3	2
Ind	5	22	43	18	3	6	3
Rep	1	*	18	49	27	4	1
6/3/07	14	23	27	19	8	5	2

48. Would you say your views on most political matters are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

	--- Liberal ---				- Conservative -			Don't think	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	Moderate	NET	Smwht	Very	in those terms (vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	29	8	21	30	39	23	17	1	2
Dem	49	16	33	31	19	13	6	*	2
Ind	26	6	21	35	36	22	15	1	2
Rep	6	1	5	22	71	36	34	1	1
6/3/07	28	8	20	30	39	25	14	1	2

49. How about on most social issues, would you say your views are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

	--- Liberal ---				- Conservative -			Don't think	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	Moderate	NET	Smwht	Very	in those terms (vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	32	13	19	27	37	22	15	1	3
Dem	52	25	27	27	19	13	6	*	2
Ind	31	11	20	32	34	21	13	1	2
Rep	10	2	8	22	67	34	33	*	1
6/3/07	31	12	19	27	39	25	14	1	2

50. How about on most fiscal issues - such as taxes and government spending - would you say your views are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

	--- Liberal ---				- Conservative -			Don't think	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	Moderate	NET	Smwht	Very	in those terms (vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	21	6	15	29	47	24	22	1	3
Dem	37	11	25	38	22	14	9	*	3
Ind	17	4	13	31	49	28	21	1	2
Rep	5	1	4	15	78	34	44	*	1
6/3/07	17	6	11	30	50	31	19	1	2

51. On another subject, what is your view of the Tea Party political movement - would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat or oppose it strongly?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/5/12	41	12	29	46	19	27	13
Dem	18	3	15	67	20	47	14
Ind	46	12	34	43	20	23	12
Rep	67	26	41	23	15	8	10
4/8/12	41	12	29	45	21	24	14
3/10/12	44	15	29	43	17	26	13
2/4/12	43	12	31	45	20	25	12
1/15/12	40	13	28	50	23	27	10
12/18/11	42	13	28	45	20	26	13
11/3/11	43	14	29	44	20	24	13
10/2/11	42	12	30	47	20	27	11
9/1/11	47	13	35	45	18	27	8
7/17/11	44	13	31	46	23	24	10
6/5/11	46	13	33	44	21	24	10
4/17/11	42	16	26	49	21	27	10

52. Overall, would you say most of your friends and family think of themselves as (Republicans), most as (Democrats) or most as independents?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Other	No
				(vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	30	35	22	5	8
Dem	10	67	13	4	6
Ind	24	24	39	5	8
Rep	66	10	12	6	5
11/23/09	36	33	19	8	5

53. How often, if ever, do you use the following online social media services. First, do you use (INSERT) frequently, occasionally or never? How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

a. Facebook

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't use the	No
				internet (vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	33	27	37	2	*
Dem	33	28	36	3	-
Ind	33	26	39	2	*
Rep	31	27	39	3	-

b. Twitter

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't use the	No
				internet (vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	5	11	81	3	*
Dem	6	11	81	2	*
Ind	5	12	80	2	*
Rep	4	10	82	3	*

c. LinkedIn

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't use the	No
				internet (vol.)	opinion
8/5/12	5	16	76	3	1
Dem	5	15	77	3	*
Ind	6	17	74	2	1
Rep	4	15	77	3	*



DEMOGRAPHICS

READ: Now for classification purposes only...

RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:

Male	49
Female	51

54. What is your age?

54a. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of...

18-29	21
30-39	15
40-49	21
50-64	26
65 and older	17

55. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or [Medicaid/Medi-CAL])?

Covered by health insurance	83
Not covered by health insurance	17
No opinion	*

56. Are you:

Married and living with your spouse	56
Living with a partner but not married	7
Separated	3
Divorced	8
Widowed	5
Or, never been married	20
Don't know	*

57. What best describes your employment situation today?

Employed full time	47
Employed part time	10
Unemployed and currently seeking employment	8
Unemployed and not seeking employment	2
A student	6
Retired	17
On disability and can't work	5
Or, a homemaker or stay at home parent	5
Don't Know	*

HH1. Including yourself, how many people, currently living in your household, are 18 or older?

One	17
Two	53
Three	18
Four	8
Five or more	4
No opinion	*

58. Are you, or is any other adult in your household a member of a labor union? [If yes, Is that you or someone in your household?]

Only respondent belongs	7
Only other household member belongs	6
Both respondent and other household member belong (vol)	1
No union members	85
No opinion	1

59. Are you, or is anyone in your household serving in the military or a military veteran, or not? [If yes, Is that you, or someone in your household?]

Yes, respondent is a veteran or active	10
Yes, other household member is veteran or active	11
Yes, both respondent and other household member (vol)	1
No veterans or active in household	77
No opinion	*

60. Thinking about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, did you serve, or do you have a close personal friend or family member in the military who has served in either of these wars, or not?

Yes	53
No	46
No opinion	*

61. Do you own or rent your home?

Own	69
Rent	28
Other	2
Mortgage	1
No opinion	*

62. Do you or does anyone in your house own a gun, or not?

Yes	41
No	59
No opinion	*

63. What, is your religion, if any? Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, atheist, agnostic, or nothing in particular?

Protestant	37
Catholic	24
Jewish	2
Other	19
Atheist	3
Agnostic	2
Nothing in particular	13
No opinion	*

64. Do you think of yourself as Christian, or not?

*Based on other religion, don't know religion, or refused (n=184)*

Yes	61
No	38
No opinion	1

65. Do you happen to be a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

*Based on Protestants and Christians (n=1,628)*

Yes	51
No	46
No opinion	3

66. Aside from weddings and funerals how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

More than once a week	12
Once a week	24
Once or twice a month	16
A few times a year	18
Seldom	16
Never	14
No opinion	*

67. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

68. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic?)

White, non-Hispanic	68
Total non-White	32
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	14
Asian, non-Hispanic	3
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	4
Undesignated	*

69. Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

*Based on Hispanics (n=297)*

U.S.	45
Puerto Rico	6
Another country	49
Don't know/Refused	2

70. What is the LAST grade of school you completed? (READ LIST ONLY IF NECESSARY)

None, or grade 1-8	3
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	9
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	29
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	4
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	26
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	16
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	12
No opinion	*

71. Which of the following categories best describes your total annual household income before taxes, from all sources? (Read list) (Probe: Your best estimate is fine)

Less than \$20,000	16
\$20,000 to under \$35,000	14
\$35,000 to under \$50,000	17
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 or more	21
No opinion	4

The Washington Post



**The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**

Headquarters  
2400 Sand Hill Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and  
Barbara Jordan Conference Center  
1330 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

**[www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)**

This publication (#8341-T) is available on the  
Kaiser Family Foundation website at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

*The Kaiser Family Foundation, a leader in health policy analysis, health journalism and communication, is dedicated to filling the need for trusted, independent information on the major health issues facing our nation and its people.  
The Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California.*