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## THE AP-GfK POLL November, 2012

Conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications

**A telephone survey of the American general population (ages 18+)**

*Interview dates: November 29 – December 3, 2012*

*Number of interviews, adults: 1,002*

*Margin of error for the total sample: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

*Please refer to the exact sample number at the bottom of each table.*

*All results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.*



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*Some questions held for later release*

CURJ11. Do you think it is likely, unlikely, or neither likely nor unlikely that Barack Obama will be able to achieve each of the following during the next four years? How about:

[ASK IF SAY LIKELY/UNLIKELY:] Is that very or somewhat (likely/unlikely)?

*Some items in CURJ11 held for future release*

	11/29-12/3/12	7/16-20/09	1/09-14/09
<b>Reduce the federal budget deficit...</b>			
<b>Total likely</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>
Very likely	14	11	15
Somewhat likely	26	24	34
<b>Neither likely or unlikely</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total unlikely</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>45</b>
Somewhat unlikely	13	18	20
Very unlikely	40	41	25
Don't know	3	1	1
Refused	*	-	*

*Based on:*

*N=1,002*

*N=1,006*

*N=1,001*

Some questions held for later release

CUR25. Who do you trust to do a better job of... [INSERT ITEM], [ROTATE:] the Democrats or the Republicans?

Some items in CUR25 held for later release

<b>Managing the federal budget deficit</b>	11/29-12/3/12	2/16-20/12	12/8-12/11	10-13-17/11	8/18-22/11	6/16-20/11	5/5-9/11	3/24-28/11	1/5-10/11	TOTAL 10/13-18/10	LIKELY VOTERS 10/13-18/10	9/8-13/10
Democrats	43	39	35	38	43	40	42	42	41	40	39	40
Republicans	40	47	47	43	40	43	40	43	41	48	52	47
Neither [VOL]	11	13	15	16	15	14	15	12	15	11	9	12
Don't know [VOL]	6	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	1	2
Refused [VOL]	1	*	*	1	*	*	*	-	*	*	-	-

Based on: N=1,002 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,501 N=846 N=1,000

<b>Handling taxes</b>	11/29-12/3/12	2/16-20/12	12/8-12/11	8/18-22/11	6/16-20/11	5/5-9/11	3/24-28/11	1/5-10/11	TOTAL 10/13-18/10	LIKELY VOTERS 10/13-18/10	9/8-13/10
Democrats	43	43	41	46	43	48	48	45	44	41	42
Republicans	39	44	45	40	44	39	40	42	47	52	48
Neither [VOL]	11	11	11	12	10	12	9	10	7	7	8
Don't know [VOL]	7	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	2
Refused [VOL]	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	*	*	-	*

Based on: N=1,002 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,501 N=846 N=1,000

CUR25. (Continued) Who do you trust to do a better job of... [INSERT ITEM], [ROTATE:] the Democrats or the Republicans?

	11/29-12/3/12	6/15-20/11	5/5-9/11
<b>Handling Medicare</b>			
Democrats	51	48	54
Republicans	32	39	33
Neither [VOL]	11	11	11
Don't know [VOL]	5	1	3
Refused [VOL]	1	*	*

Based on: N=1,002 N=1,001 N=1,001

BUD3Z. In order to balance the federal budget, which should be the main focus of lawmakers?

	11/29-12/3/12	2/16-20/12	12/8-12/11	10/13-17/11	8/18-22/11	3/24-28/11
Increasing taxes	30	31	31	34	34	29
Cutting government services	46	56	60	55	53	62
Both equally [VOL]	13	5	4	4	6	4
Neither [VOL]	8	5	3	4	6	3
Don't know [VOL]	4	2	2	4	2	1
Refused [VOL]	1	1	*	*	*	*

Based on: N=1,002 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,001

BUD5. The following are ways that some people have proposed making cuts in government spending to reduce the federal budget deficit. For each one, please tell me if you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose it as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit.

**(FOR EACH FAVOR/OPPOSE):** Do you FAVOR/OPPOSE that strongly or only somewhat?

**(READ AS NECESSARY:)** Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose that as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit?

<b>Eliminating the tax deduction for mortgage interest, in exchange for a lower overall income tax rate</b>	11/29-12/3/12	11/18-22/10
<b>Total favor</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>
Strongly favor	15	18
Somewhat favor	26	30
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>
Somewhat oppose	15	14
Strongly oppose	18	17
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	6	5
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1	*

Based on:

N=1,002

N=1,000

<b>Reducing federal government spending on defense</b>	11/29-12/3/12
<b>Total favor</b>	<b>40</b>
Strongly favor	22
Somewhat favor	17
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>44</b>
Somewhat oppose	16
Strongly oppose	29
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	4
Refused [DO NOT READ]	*

Based on:

N=1,002

BUD5. (Continued) The following are ways that some people have proposed making cuts in government spending to reduce the federal budget deficit. For each one, please tell me if you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose it as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit.  
**(FOR EACH FAVOR/OPPOSE):** Do you FAVOR/OPPOSE that strongly or only somewhat?  
**(READ AS NECESSARY:)** Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose that as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit?

<b>Gradually raising the age at which people become eligible for Medicare benefits</b>	11/29-12/3/12
<b>Total favor</b>	<b>40</b>
Strongly favor	16
Somewhat favor	24
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>48</b>
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	34
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	3
Refused [DO NOT READ]	*

Based on:

N=1,002

<b>Changing the way Social Security benefits are calculated so that annual increases are smaller</b>	11/29-12/3/12
<b>Total favor</b>	<b>30</b>
Strongly favor	11
Somewhat favor	19
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>49</b>
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	32
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	6
Refused [DO NOT READ]	*

Based on:

N=1,002

BUD5. (Continued) The following are ways that some people have proposed making cuts in government spending to reduce the federal budget deficit. For each one, please tell me if you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose it as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit.

**(FOR EACH FAVOR/OPOSE):** Do you FAVOR/OPOSE that strongly or only somewhat?

**(READ AS NECESSARY:)** Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose that as a way of reducing the federal budget deficit?

Limiting the dollar amount of deductions taxpayers can take	11/29-12/3/12
<b>Total favor</b>	<b>39</b>
Strongly favor	16
Somewhat favor	23
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total oppose</b>	<b>37</b>
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	20
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	6
Refused [DO NOT READ]	*

Based on:

N=1,002

TC1. The tax cuts that were passed in 2001 and 2003 will expire this year if they are not continued. Which of the following best describes what you think Congress should do about the tax cuts?\*

	11/29-12/3/12	11/18-22/10 <sup>^</sup>	11/3-8/10	9/8-13/10	8/11-16/10
Allow the tax cuts to expire for everyone	13	14	12	15	14
Allow the tax cuts on income above \$250,000 to expire, but continue them for income below \$250,000**	48	50	32	39	38
Continue the tax cuts for everyone	32	34	53	44	45
Don't know	5	2	3	2	3
Refused	2	*	*	*	*

Based on:

N=1,002

N=1,000

N=1,000

N=1,000

N=1,007

\*Wording change: prior wording was "...that were passed in 2001 will expire..."

\*\*Wording change: prior wording was "Allow the tax cuts for people earning more than \$250,000 to expire, but continue them for other people"

<sup>^</sup>AP-CNBC Poll



PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or none of these?

	11/29-12/3/12	TOTAL 10/19-23/12	REGISTERED VOTERS 10/19-23/12	LIKELY VOTERS 10/19-23/12	TOTAL 9/13-17/12	REGISTERED VOTERS 9/13-17/12	LIKELY VOTERS 9/13- 17/12	8/16-20/12	6/14-18-/12	5/3-7/12
Democrat	33	31	32	34	31	32	31	31	29	31
Independent	27	27	28	27	29	30	30	30	33	29
Republican	23	25	28	30	22	25	30	23	22	22
None of these	15	14	8	6	17	13	8	15	15	17
Don't know [VOL]	1	2	2	*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Refused [VOL]	2	2	2	3	*	*	*	1	1	*

Based on: N=1,002 N=1,186 N=1,041 N=839 N=1,512 N=1,282 N=807 N=1,006 N=1,007 N=1,004



PID1/ Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or none of these?  
 PIDi. [IF "INDEPENDENT" OR "NONE," ASK:] Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	11/29-12/3/12
<b>Total Democrat</b>	<b>49</b>
Democrat	33
Independent – lean Democratic	10
None – lean Democratic	6
<b>Total Republican</b>	<b>37</b>
Republican	23
Independent – lean Republican	9
None – lean Republican	5
[VOL] Independent – don't lean	6
[VOL] None – don't lean	4
[VOL] Independent – lean other	1
[VOL] None – lean other	1
Don't know	1
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,002

G11b. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	11/29-12/3/12
Liberal	21
Conservative	40
Moderate	32
Don't know	5
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,002

[INTERVIEWER READ:] The following questions are for classification purposes only. Be assured that your responses will be aggregated with those of other participants to this survey.

DM2. What is the last grade of school you completed? [READ EACH ITEM]

Less than high school graduate	7
High school graduate	34
Technical/trade school	4
Some college	25
College graduate	16
Some graduate school	2
Graduate degree	10
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	3

Based on:

N=1,002

DM4. In what year were you born?

Age group:

18-29	22
30-49	36
50-64	22
65+	17
Refused [VOL]	4

Based on:

N=1,002

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live? [READ EACH ITEM]

Urban area	26
Suburban area	39
Rural area	30
Don't know [VOL]	3
Refused [VOL]	3

Based on:

N=1,002

DM6. Do you currently own your home, rent it, or do you have some other arrangement?

Own	60
Rent	27
Other arrangement	10
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	3

Based on:

N=1,002

ASK IF HOMEOWNER (DM6=1):

DMHO. Do you currently have a mortgage or home equity loan, or not?

Yes	58
No	41
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	1

Based on:

N=704

DM8. How many different landline telephone numbers, if any, are there in your home? This includes listed or unlisted numbers. To answer this question, please don't count cell phones or landlines used ONLY for faxes or modems.

None	33
One Line	60
Two lines	2
Three or more lines	1
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	4

Based on:

N=1,002

DM9. And on how many different cell-phone numbers, if any, could I have reached you for this call?

None	7
One	76
Two	10
Three or more	3
Don't know [VOL]	1
Refused [VOL]	4

Based on:

N=1,002

DM10. [IF BOTH LAND AND CELLPHONE, ASK:] Generally speaking, would you say you use your landline phone most of the time, your cell phone most of the time, or would you say you use both about equally?

Landline	30
Cell phone	39
Both equally	31
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	*

Based on:

N=597

DM10a. [ASK CELL-PHONE SAMPLE ONLY] How many adults, in addition to you, carry and use this cell phone at least once a week or more?

None	50
One	32
Two	9
Three or more	6
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	3

Based on:

N=402

DM12. Do you consider yourself a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes, born-again/evangelical	36
No	58
Don't know [VOL]	2
Refused [VOL]	5

Based on:

N=1,002

DM13. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or don't you belong to any religious denomination?

Protestant	26
Catholic	22
Mormon	1
Jewish	2
Muslim	1
Other religion	18
Don't belong to religious denomination	24
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	5

Based on:

N=1,002

DM14. [IF "OTHER RELIGION" IN DM13, ASK:] Do you consider yourself a Christian, or not?

Yes, a Christian	85
No, not a Christian	13
Don't know [VOL]	-
Refused [VOL]	3

Based on:

N=173

DM16. Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?

Yes	14
No	82
Don't know [VOL]	*
Refused [VOL]	4

Based on:

N=1,002

DM17. [IF SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO (D16=1), ASK:] In addition to being Hispanic, Latino or Spanish, what race or races do you consider yourself to be? [DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

DM18. [IF NOT SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO (D16=2), ASK:] What race or races do you consider yourself to be? [DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

White, Caucasian	69
Black, African-American, Negro	11
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian Indian	*
Native Hawaiian	-
Chinese	-
Guamanian or Chamorro	-
Filipino	-
Samoan	-
Japanese	*
Korean	*
Vietnamese	-
Other Asian	1
Other Pacific Islander	*
Some other race	8
Don't know	2
Refused	6
Multiple races	3

Based on:

N=1,002

DM19. Does your total household [IF SINGLE: "PERSONAL"] income fall below \$50,000 dollars, or is it \$50,000 or higher? [READ LIST]

Below \$50,000	48
\$50,000+	43
Don't know [VOL]	2
Refused [VOL]	7

Based on:

N=1,002

DM20. And in which group does your total household [IF SINGLE: "PERSONAL"] income fall? [READ LIST]

Under \$10,000	9
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	11
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	7
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	11
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	8
\$150,000 or more	6
Don't know [VOL]	4
Refused [VOL]	11

Based on:

N=1,002

DM25. [INTERVIEWER RECORD:] Respondent's Gender:

Male	49
Female	51

Based on:

N=1,002

CENSUS REGION:

Northeast	18
Midwest	22
South	37
West	23

Based on:

N=1,002

## AP-GfK Poll Methodology

The **Associated Press-GfK Poll** was conducted November 29 – December 3, 2012 by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications – a division of GfK Custom Research North America. This telephone poll is based on a nationally-representative probability sample of 1,002 general population adults age 18 or older.

Interviews were conducted with 600 respondents on landlines and 402 respondents on cellular telephones. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. The sample included the contiguous 48 states, Alaska, and Hawaii. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference.

The combined landline and cell phone data were weighted to account for probabilities of selection, as well as age, sex, education and race, using targets from the March 2011 supplement of the Current Population Survey. In addition to these factors, the weighting takes into account the patterns of land and cell phone usage by region from the 2011 Fall estimates provided by GfK MRI Inc.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total significantly more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

Trend data are displayed for selected questions from previous AP-GfK Polls that also consisted of telephone interviews with nationally-representative probability samples of adults age 18 or older. Details about all AP-GfK Polls are available at <http://www.ap-gfkipoll.com>.