



*The Morning Call*  
Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion

**Survey of Independent Voters  
in Pennsylvania**

**KEY FINDINGS REPORT**

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## KEY FINDINGS:

1. Despite providing strong support for Barack Obama during the 2008 presidential election, significantly more independents in Pennsylvania now disapprove of the way he is handling his job than approve of his work.
2. Registered independents in the Keystone State have very strong levels of disapproval for both Democrats and Republicans in Congress with over 2 out of 3 voters rating both major parties' legislative efforts negatively.
3. Independent voters in Pennsylvania maintain generally unfavorable views about both the Democrat and Republican Party, with the most unfavorable feelings directed to the GOP.
4. Pennsylvania's registered independents have fairly divided views about the Tea Party Movement, with a substantial number of non-affiliated voters unsure about what this movement stands for.
5. The Commonwealth's independent voters report ideological beliefs that can best be described as moderate to conservative leaning in nature.
6. While independent voters in the state were more likely to align with the Democrats on issues such as environmental protection, health care and social policy, they are more likely to find agreement with the Republican Party on defense and anti-terrorism policy.
7. The Keystone State's registered independents indicate an equal likelihood of voting for Democrat or Republican candidates in this fall's congressional elections.

**METHODOLOGY:** The following key findings report summarizes data collected in a telephone survey of Pennsylvanians who are registered as non-affiliated or independent voters in the state. The surveys were conducted between March 11 and March 16, 2010. The sample frame for the survey was created from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania voter files. In the case where a phone number was not provided for an independent voter we attempted to match the voters name with existing public phone records in order to provide the most inclusive sampling frame from which to randomly select voters for inclusion in the survey. Interviewing was conducted via telephone, with 437 surveys completed. This number of completions results in a margin of error of +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval. However the margin of errors for sub groups (i.e. women, income groups, age categories) is larger due to smaller sample size. Percentages throughout the survey have been rounded upward at the .5 mark, thus many totals in the results will not equal 100%. The survey questionnaire was designed by Christopher Borick, PhD of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO) in consultation with staff

members of the *Morning Call*. The analysis was written by Dr. Borick and Joe Caporoso, Assistant Director of the MCIPO.

**OVERVIEW:** One of the most significant trends in contemporary American politics has been the growth in the number of Americans who describe themselves as independent voters. An aggregation of dozens of national polls by Pollster.com indicates that more Americans describe themselves as independents than either Democrat or Republican. While it appears that the number of independents is on the rise, it is less clear what these voters are looking for in terms of the political system. It is for that reason that the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion and the Morning Call sought to survey Pennsylvania’s independent voters on their beliefs and desires.

According to the Commonwealth’s Secretary of State there are about half a million residents of the Keystone State who have registered to vote as independents. Because state election laws prohibit independents from voting in party primaries, the percentage of independents in the state is low in comparison with many other states. Nevertheless in an election year with a high profile U.S. Senate race, at least 10 competitive congressional districts and a new governor being selected, Pennsylvania’s independents are poised to play an important role in determining if Democrats continue their recent electoral success or if a GOP renaissance is on the way.

**WHO ARE THE INDEPENDENTS?:** Much has been made about the ideological leanings of the independent voters. Are they centrist voters that find the two major parties too extreme, or do they tend to hold strong ideological positions that neither party adequately represents? Our findings suggest that registered independents in the Commonwealth may best be described as “center-right” on a left to right continuum. Nearly one in four independents identify themselves as “moderate,” with 45% “conservative” and 28% “liberal.” Notably, 3 out of 4 independents fall into the moderate or only somewhat liberal or conservative categories, compared with a little over 1 in 5 independents who call themselves very conservative or very liberal.

**TABLE ONE**

**Ideological Leanings of Registered Independent Voters**

<b>Ideological Beliefs</b>	<b>Percentage Responding</b>
Very Conservative	14%
Somewhat Conservative	31%
Somewhat Liberal	20%
Very Liberal	8%
Moderate	24%
Not Sure	3%

N = 434

The primary factors that have caused independent voters to forsake registering with one of the major parties are quite diverse. When asked in an open ended form why they decided to register as an independent instead of registering with a political party, Pennsylvania independents most commonly noted anger and dissatisfaction with Democrats and Republicans (37%), and the freedom to chose any candidate (26%) as the primary reason for their choice.

**TABLE TWO**

**Primary Reasons for Registering as an Independent**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Percent Responding</b>
Angry At Republicans and Democrats	37%
Want Freedom to Pick Any Candidate	26%
Don't Want To Be Affiliated With Any Party	9%
Moderate or Feel Equal Towards Both Parties	6%
Want to Pick Person Over Party	5%
Other	14%
Not Sure	4%

N=436 (NOTE: The question was asked in an open ended manner)

**INDEPENDENT VOTER VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES:** While dissatisfaction with the political parties has driven many independent voters to make the choice of being unaffiliated, these voters are regularly involved in elections where the choices are limited to Democrats and Republicans. Thus we sought to determine how independents view party positions.

The survey findings indicate that on key areas of public policy the Commonwealth's independent voters tend to alternate support between the Democrats and Republicans. While more independents agree with the Democratic Party positions on issue such as health care, environmental protection and social issues, Republican positions are preferred on national defense and fighting terrorism. The only policy areas where independent voters were equally divided on which party they most aligned with were economic policy and managing budget deficits and debt

**TABLE THREE**

**“Which Party do You Agree More with on the Issues?”**

	Democrats	Republicans	Both the Same	Not Sure
Defense	27%	42%	18%	11%
Health Care	41%	33%	15%	11%
Economic Policy	31%	35%	21%	13%
Managing Deficits and Debt	26%	25%	34%	13%
Anti-Terrorism	20%	42%	25%	12%
Environment	47%	21%	18%	13%
Social Policies	44%	23%	20%	13%

With independent voter’s policy preferences failing to align with one of the two major parties it is not surprising that they have a strong preference for the growth of a third party to meet their interests. Just under 6 out of 10 registered independents in Pennsylvania indicated that a third party is needed in the United States in order to adequately represent the interest of the American people compared with 1 in 4 that believe the Democrats and Republicans are currently doing a sufficient job in representing the public.

**TABLE FOUR**

**“Do the Republican and Democrat parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?”**

Response	Percent Responding
Do an Adequate Job	23%
Third Party Needed	57%
Not Sure	20%

N=435

But even as these voters seek something different than the major party candidates there is a hesitancy to throw their support to third party or independent candidates for fear that their votes would lead to their “least favorite” candidates winning elections. Nearly 4 out of 10 registered independents indicated that they would not vote for a third party or independent candidate if it meant that the candidate they least agreed with would win the race.

**TABLE FIVE**

**“ Would you vote for a third party or independent candidate if you knew that a vote for that candidate would make it more likely that the candidate you least agree with in the election would win the race?”**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent Responding</b>
<b>Would Vote For</b>	42%
<b>Would Not Vote For</b>	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	20%

N=435

**INDEPENDENT VIEWS ON THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS:** In 2008 registered independents were a key part of the electoral coalition that provided Barack Obama with his solid victory in the Commonwealth. A majority of independents in the state voted for Obama in the last presidential election helping him to his convincing win in Pennsylvania.

**TABLE SIX**

**2008 Presidential Votes Among Registered Independents**

<b>Vote Status</b>	<b>Percent Responding</b>
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%
<b>John McCain</b>	35%
<b>Other</b>	6%
<b>Didn't Vote</b>	7%
<b>Not Sure</b>	>1%

N= 415

The picture today is quite different with significantly more independents in the state disapproving of the President's job performance than those approving of Obama's work in the White House. Nearly half of all registered independents in Pennsylvania currently disapprove of how the president is handling his job.

**TABLE SEVEN**

**Approval Ratings for President Obama**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent Responding</b>
<b>Approve</b>	38%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%

N = 432

The president’s diminished standing among Pennsylvania independents has not translated to support for the work being done by Republicans in Congress. Only 1 out of 5 registered independents in the state approve of the way GOP officials in Washington D.C. are performing. Notably, exactly the same number of independent voters approve of the way Democrats in Congress are doing their job. Simply put, the Commonwealth’s independent voters do not like much of what they see happening in the nation’s capital.

**TABLE EIGHT**

**Approval Ratings for Democrats and Republicans in Congress**

	Republicans	Democrats
<b>Approve</b>	20%	20%
<b>Disapprove</b>	67%	68%
<b>Not Sure</b>	13%	12%

N=434

**INDEPENDENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT:** One of the defining features of American politics in the last year has been the growth of the Tea Party Movement. As independents find little good in the Republicans and Democrats that are leading the nation, they give more mixed reviews to the emergence of the Tea Party. Among independents that had an opinion about the Tea Party Movement there were fairly equal levels of favorable and unfavorable ratings.

**TABLE NINE**

**Independent Voters’ Views on the Tea Party Movement**

Response	Percent Responding
<b>Favorable</b>	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%

N=434

Registered independents in the Commonwealth appear to have fairly limited understanding about the Tea Party movement stands for. Nearly 6 out of 10 independent voters across the state indicated that they didn’t know much about what the Tea Party stands for, with 4 in 10 undecided if they like or dislike this movement.

**TABLE TEN**

**Level of Knowledge About the Tea Party Movement  
Among Independent Voters**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent Responding</b>
<b>A Great Deal</b>	9%
<b>A Good Amount</b>	22%
<b>Just Some</b>	30%
<b>Very Little</b>	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%

N=433

**INDEPENDENTS AND VOTING BEHAVIOR:** As de facto freelance voters Pennsylvania’s registered independents are seen as important players in determining election outcomes. A plurality (43%) of independent voters in the Commonwealth tend to vote about equally for Democrats and Republicans, with 1 in 4 usually voting Democratic and 1 in 5 usually voting for GOP candidates.

**TABLE ELEVEN**

**Voting Patterns Among Registered Independents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent Responding</b>
<b>Usually Republican Candidates</b>	20%
<b>Usually Democratic Candidates</b>	25%
<b>About Equal</b>	43%
<b>Other</b>	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	6%

N=434

Given their divided views on the parties it’s not surprising that Pennsylvania independents are torn on which party’s candidate they plan to support in the upcoming congressional elections. About 1 in 4 independents is planning to vote for a Democrat in their congressional district, with another 1 in 4 planning to support the GOP candidate in the midterm election. Most notably 4 out of 10 independents are undecided on which party’s candidate they will back come November, making them a prime target for candidates enmeshed in tight races.



## TABLE TWELVE

### Which Party's Candidate Do You Plan To Support in Upcoming Congressional Elections

<b>Democrat</b>	29%
<b>Republican</b>	26%
<b>Other</b>	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	33%

N= 435 (Note: Results include leaners)

**CONCLUSION:** With all the dissatisfaction and conflicted views regarding the two major parties it is understandable that a solid majority of the state's independent voters maintain the view that a third party is needed to represent the American people. But even as these voters seek something different there is a hesitancy to throw their support to third party or independent candidates for fear that their votes would lead to their "least favorite" candidates winning elections. So for the short term it is likely that the Pennsylvania independent will continue to grudgingly choose between Democrats and Republicans, and by doing so remain a coveted prize for the political parties that they carry so much animosity for.

## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

Pennsylvania Independent Voter Survey

Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion/Morning Call

Field Dates – March, 11 to February 16, 2010

Population – Registered Independents

Sampling Procedure – Random selection from state voter files with phone match

437 Completed Surveys

Margin of Error = +/- 5% at 95% Level of Confidence

Percentages are rounded at .5 level; totals may not equal 100%

**Q1: Conformation of status as registered independent.**

**Q2: Which of the following best describes your past voting registration status. In the past you were a...**

<b>Registered Democrat</b>	16%
<b>Registered Republican</b>	17%
<b>Registered With Another Political Party</b>	>1%
<b>Registered With Different Political Parties Over the Year</b>	8%
<b>Always Registered as Independent</b>	58%
<b>Not Sure</b>	>1%

**Q3: How many years have you been registered as an independent voter in Pennsylvania?**

<b>1-5 Years</b>	37%
<b>6-10 Years</b>	18%
<b>11-20 Years</b>	14%
<b>Over 20 Years</b>	30%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%

**Q4: Which of the following best describes your political beliefs?**

<b>Very Conservative</b>	14%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	31%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	20%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	8%
<b>Moderate</b>	24%
<b>Not Sure</b>	3%

**Q5: In the last Presidential election did you vote for Barack Obama or John McCain?**

<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%
<b>John McCain</b>	35%
<b>Other</b>	6%
<b>Didn't Vote</b>	7%
<b>Not Sure</b>	>1%

**Q6: If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district?**

<b>Democrat</b>	23%
<b>Republican</b>	24%
<b>Other</b>	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	42%

**Q7: As of today, who do you lean more toward?  
(Only those who chose "Not Sure" in Q6)**

<b>Democrat</b>	13%
<b>Republican</b>	6%
<b>Other</b>	3%
<b>Not Sure</b>	79%

**COMBINED Q6 and Q7**

<b>Democrat</b>	29%
<b>Republican</b>	26%
<b>Other</b>	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	33%

**Q8: No matter how you plan to vote in the upcoming congressional elections please indicate which of the following best describes how you usually vote. Do you usually vote for Republicans, Democrats, or about equally for Democrats or Republicans?**

<b>Republicans</b>	20%
<b>Democrats</b>	25%
<b>About Equal</b>	43%
<b>Other</b>	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	6%

**Q9: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?**

<b>Approve</b>	38%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%

**Q10: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling their job?**

<b>Approve</b>	20%
<b>Disapprove</b>	68%
<b>Not Sure</b>	13%

**Q11: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats in Congress are handling their job?**

<b>Approve</b>	20%
<b>Disapprove</b>	68%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%

**Q12: In general do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Democratic Party?**

<b>Favorable</b>	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%

**Q13: In general do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Republican Party?**

<b>Favorable</b>	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	57%
<b>Not Sure</b>	17%

**Q14: Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party?**

<b>Favorable</b>	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	41%

**Q15: How much do you feel you know about what the Tea Party stands for: a great deal, a good amount, just some or very little?**

<b>A Great Deal</b>	9%
<b>A Good Amount</b>	22%
<b>Just Some</b>	30%
<b>Very Little</b>	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%

**Q16: Given what you know about the Tea Party’s positions on the issues, would you say that overall you agree with them strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly?**

<b>Agree Strongly</b>	10%
<b>Agree Somewhat</b>	27%
<b>Disagree Somewhat</b>	16%
<b>Disagree Strongly</b>	15%
<b>Nothing</b>	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	24%

**Q17: What is the primary reason that you have decided to register as an independent instead of registering with a political party?**

Angry At Republicans and Democrats	37%
Want Freedom to Pick Any Candidate	26%
Don’t Want To Be Affiliated With Any Party	9%
Moderate or Feel Equal Towards Both Parties	6%
Want to Pick Person Over Party	5%
Other	14%
Not Sure	4%

**Q18: Which of the following comes closest to your view of the way the Democratic Party and Republican Party have been dealing with the country’s problems? You are angry at both parties. You are only angry at Republicans. You are only angry at Democrats. You are not angry at either party.**

<b>Angry at both parties</b>	55%
<b>Angry at the Republicans</b>	9%
<b>Angry at the Democrats</b>	10%
<b>Not Angry at either party</b>	25%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%

**Q19: In your view, do the Republican and Democrat parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?**

<b>Do an Adequate Job</b>	23%
<b>Third Party Needed</b>	57%
<b>Not Sure</b>	20%

**Q20: Would you vote for a third party or independent candidate if you knew that a vote for that candidate would make it more likely that the candidate you least agree with in the election would win the race?**

<b>Would Vote For</b>	42%
<b>Would Not Vote For</b>	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	20%

**Q21: For each of the following areas of policy I mention please indicate if you generally agree more with Republicans or Democrats positions on the issue, health care**

<b>Republicans</b>	33%
<b>Democrats</b>	41%
<b>Both the Same</b>	15%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%

**Q22: National Defense**

<b>Republicans</b>	43%
<b>Democrats</b>	28%
<b>Both the Same</b>	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%

**Q23: Environmental Protection**

<b>Republicans</b>	21%
<b>Democrats</b>	48%
<b>Both the Same</b>	18%
<b>Not Sure</b>	13%

**Q24: Anti-Terrorism**

<b>Republicans</b>	42%
<b>Democrats</b>	21%
<b>Both the Same</b>	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%

**Q25: Economic Policy**

<b>Republicans</b>	35%
<b>Democrats</b>	31%
<b>Both the Same</b>	21%
<b>Not Sure</b>	13%

**Q26: Managing the Budget deficit and debts**

<b>Republicans</b>	26%
<b>Democrats</b>	27%
<b>Both the Same</b>	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	13%

**Q27: Social Issues**

<b>Republicans</b>	23%
<b>Democrats</b>	44%
<b>Both the Same</b>	20%
<b>Not Sure</b>	13%

**Q28: How likely are you to change your registration status from independent to either Democrat or Republican in the next five years?**

<b>Very Likely</b>	>1%
<b>Somewhat Likely</b>	10%
<b>Not Too Likely</b>	15%
<b>Not Likely At All</b>	72%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%

**Q30: Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity?**

<b>White/Caucasian</b>	93%
<b>African American</b>	4%
<b>Hispanic</b>	>1%
<b>Latino</b>	>1%
<b>Asian</b>	>1%
<b>Native American</b>	>1%
<b>Mixed Race</b>	>1%
<b>Other</b>	1%

**Q31: Which of the following best describes your religious affiliation?**

<b>Catholic</b>	29%
<b>Protestant</b>	46%
<b>Jewish</b>	2%
<b>Hindu</b>	>1%
<b>Other Religion</b>	17%
<b>Atheist</b>	3%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%

**Q32: What is your current marital status?**

<b>Single</b>	19%
<b>Married</b>	67%
<b>Separated</b>	>1%
<b>Divorced</b>	5%
<b>Widowed</b>	8%

**Q33: What is your highest level of education?**

<b>Less than high school</b>	3%
<b>High school graduate</b>	22%
<b>Some college or technical school</b>	28%
<b>College Graduate</b>	29%
<b>Graduate or Professional Degree</b>	19%

**Q34: Which of the following best describes your family income?**

<b>Under \$20,000</b>	7%
<b>\$20,000-\$40,000</b>	20%
<b>\$40,000-\$60,000</b>	18%
<b>\$60,000-\$80,000</b>	19%
<b>\$80,000-\$100,000</b>	12%
<b>Over \$100,000</b>	22%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%



**Q35: Would you be willing to be contacted by a newspaper reported for an interview?**

<b>Yes</b>	23%
<b>No</b>	75%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%

**Q36: Gender**

<b>Male</b>	49%
<b>Female</b>	51%

**SELECTED CROSSTABULATIONS**

**Questions Crossed With Following:**

**Q4: Which of the following best describes your political beliefs?**

<b>Very Conservative</b>	14%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	31%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	20%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	8%
<b>Moderate</b>	24%
<b>Not Sure</b>	3%
<b>Refused</b>	1%

**Q8: No matter how you plan to vote in the upcoming congressional elections please indicate which of the following best describes how you usually vote. Do you usually vote for Republicans, Democrats, or about equally for Democrats or Republicans?**

<b>Republicans</b>	20%
<b>Democrats</b>	25%
<b>About Equal</b>	43%
<b>Other</b>	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	6%
<b>Refused</b>	>1%

**Q2: Which of the following best describes your past voting registration status. In the past you were a...**

	<b>Registered Democrat</b>	<b>Registered Republican</b>	<b>Registered With Another Political Party</b>	<b>Registered With Different Political Parties</b>	<b>Always Registered as Independent</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	10%	28%	2%	7%	53%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	13%	19%	2%	11%	56%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	27%	14%	0%	8%	51%	0%

<b>Very Liberal</b>	19%	11%	0%	6%	64%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	12%	16%	0%	5%	67%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	4%	38%	2%	9%	47%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	34%	13%	0%	5%	48%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	14%	13%	>1%	10%	63%	0%

**Q3: How many years have you been registered as an independent voter in Pennsylvania?**

	<b>1-5 Years</b>	<b>6-10 Years</b>	<b>11-20 Years</b>	<b>Over 20 Years</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	33%	18%	17%	30%	2%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	42%	21%	13%	23%	2%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	37%	17%	13%	31%	1%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	39%	17%	11%	33%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	32%	15%	14%	40%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	41%	15%	19%	24%	1%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	42%	14%	14%	29%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	33%	22%	12%	33%	>1%

**Q5: In the last Presidential election did you vote for Barack Obama or John McCain?**

	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Didn't Vote</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	7%	75%	8%	5%	0%	5%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	37%	42%	10%	7%	>1%	4%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	80%	13%	1%	2%	0%	4%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	83%	8%	3%	6%	0%	0%

<b>Moderate</b>	52%	27%	3%	9%	2%	7%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	9%	79%	5%	7%	0%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	90%	5%	>1%	3%	0%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	50%	30%	7%	8%	2%	5%

**Q6: If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district?**

	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	7%	53%	12%	28%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	15%	39%	10%	37%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	43%	4%	6%	47%	1%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	50%	6%	19%	25%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	18%	14%	15%	53%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	4%	61%	5%	31%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	57%	4%	7%	33%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	18%	20%	12%	50%	0%

**Q7: As of today, who do you lean more toward?**

	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	0%	24%	0%	77%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	10%	8%	2%	80%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	23%	0%	5%	73%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	22%	0%	0%	78%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	13%	2%	2%	84%	0%

<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	4%	15%	0%	81%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	34%	0%	3%	63%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	10%	7%	3%	81%	0%

**Q9: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?**

	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	8%	90%	2%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	27%	62%	12%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	61%	26%	13%	1%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	67%	17%	17%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	41%	35%	22%	2%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	4%	91%	5%	1%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	75%	12%	11%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	34%	47%	19%	0%

**Q10: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling their job?**

	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	35%	55%	10%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	31%	59%	10%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	7%	83%	9%	1%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	3%	78%	19%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	11%	70%	19%	0%

<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	42%	44%	14%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	7%	88%	5%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	19%	65%	16%	0%

**Q11: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats in Congress are handling their job?**

	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	3%	92%	5%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	19%	70%	10%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	27%	65%	8%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	44%	39%	17%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	15%	64%	21%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	0%	91%	9%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	44%	48%	8%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	16%	69%	15%	0%

**Q12: In general do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Democratic Party?**

	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	10%	87%	3%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	30%	59%	12%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	61%	26%	14%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	56%	25%	19%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	41%	39%	19%	1%

<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	5%	88%	7%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	79%	15%	7%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	33%	46%	20%	>1%

**Q13: In general do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Republican Party?**

	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	45%	47%	8%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	38%	48%	14%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	15%	71%	14%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	8%	72%	19%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	17%	56%	27%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	52%	35%	13%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	8%	83%	8%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	27%	51%	23%	0%

**Q14: Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party?**

	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	70%	8%	22%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	32%	26%	41%	2%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	6%	54%	37%	4%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	22%	36%	39%	3%

<b>Moderate</b>	17%	33%	50%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	59%	14%	27%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	11%	57%	29%	3%
<b>About Equal</b>	22%	29%	48%	2%

**Q15: How much do you feel you know about what the Tea Party stands for: a great deal, a good amount, just some or very little?**

	<b>A Great Deal</b>	<b>A Good Amount</b>	<b>Just Some</b>	<b>Very Little</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	27%	30%	18%	22%	3%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	8%	24%	34%	25%	8%	>1%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	7%	19%	27%	36%	11%	1%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	11%	17%	36%	14%	22%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	1%	17%	35%	33%	14%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	15%	28%	32%	19%	6%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	8%	25%	27%	26%	11%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	8%	16%	33%	32%	11%	>1%

**Q16: Given what you know about the Tea Party's positions on the issues, would you say that overall you agree with them strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly?**

	<b>Agree Strongly</b>	<b>Agree Somewhat</b>	<b>Disagree Somewhat</b>	<b>Disagree Strongly</b>	<b>Nothing</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	42%	37%	5%	3%	8%	5%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	7%	42%	14%	7%	7%	22%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	1%	12%	24%	28%	11%	24%	0%



<b>Very Liberal</b>	6%	17%	11%	31%	11%	25%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	5%	21%	21%	14%	7%	32%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	29%	40%	7%	5%	5%	14%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	2%	16%	22%	30%	8%	22%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	5%	30%	18%	12%	10%	26%	0%

**Q18: Which of the following comes closest to your view of the way the Democratic Party and Republican Party have been dealing with the country's problems? You are angry at both parties. You are only angry at Republicans. You are only angry at Democrats. You are not angry at either party.**

	<b>Angry At Both Parties</b>	<b>Angry At The Republicans</b>	<b>Angry At The Democrats</b>	<b>Not Angry At Either Party</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	53%	3%	28%	15%	0%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	49%	8%	16%	24%	3%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	59%	13%	0%	28%	0%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	47%	22%	3%	25%	3%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	61%	6%	1%	30%	2%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	55%	1%	31%	13%	0%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	50%	26%	2%	20%	3%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	53%	5%	7%	34%	1%	0%

**Q19: In your view, do the Republican and Democrat parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?**

	<b>Do An Adequate Job</b>	<b>Third Party Needed</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>

<b>Very Conservative</b>	22%	48%	30%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	27%	56%	16%	>1%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	24%	52%	22%	1%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	19%	58%	19%	3%
<b>Moderate</b>	17%	68%	16%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	25%	53%	22%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	27%	58%	13%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	20%	58%	22%	>1%

**Q20: Would you vote for a third party or independent candidate if you knew that a vote for that candidate would make it more likely that the candidate you least agree with in the election would win the race?**

	<b>Would Vote For</b>	<b>Would Not Vote For</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	50%	38%	10%	2%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	35%	44%	21%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	35%	42%	23%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	36%	44%	19%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	52%	29%	18%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	33%	44%	22%	1%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	37%	41%	22%	0%
<b>About Equal</b>	46%	36%	18%	>1%

**Q21: For each of the following areas of policy I mention please indicate if you generally agree more with Republicans or Democrats positions on the issue, health care**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	73%	13%	8%	5%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	50%	31%	14%	5%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	9%	66%	12%	11%	2%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	6%	78%	11%	6%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	19%	37%	20%	23%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	78%	8%	7%	7%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	4%	79%	8%	7%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	30%	38%	20%	12%	0%

**Q22: National Defense**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	78%	7%	7%	8%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	57%	22%	15%	7%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	23%	44%	21%	8%	4%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	19%	56%	17%	8%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	29%	24%	27%	19%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	84%	4%	4%	9%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	15%	55%	21%	8%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	40%	24%	23%	11%	1%

**Q23: Environmental Protection**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	57%	10%	20%	13%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	28%	42%	17%	13%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	9%	69%	12%	8%	2%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	6%	75%	11%	8%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	9%	49%	23%	19%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	60%	18%	11%	12%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	5%	79%	12%	3%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	14%	48%	22%	16%	0%

**Q24: Anti-Terrorism**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	72%	5%	18%	5%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	59%	12%	22%	8%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	16%	36%	28%	17%	2%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	28%	39%	25%	6%	3%
<b>Moderate</b>	31%	22%	31%	16%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	85%	2%	8%	5%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	21%	42%	25%	10%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	39%	18%	29%	14%	0%

**Q25: Economic Policy**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	72%	8%	18%	2%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	47%	22%	19%	12%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	19%	49%	18%	12%	2%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	8%	58%	17%	17%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	20%	30%	27%	22%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	79%	5%	11%	6%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	11%	61%	16%	11%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	29%	29%	25%	17%	0%

**Q26: Managing the Budget deficit and debts**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	45%	5%	43%	7%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	32%	19%	39%	11%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	15%	45%	22%	14%	4%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	3%	67%	19%	11%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	19%	22%	38%	19%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	60%	4%	29%	7%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	6%	57%	23%	12%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	24%	24%	38%	13%	>1%

**Q27: Social Issues**

	Republicans	Democrats	Both The Same	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	60%	13%	20%	7%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	32%	37%	20%	11%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	7%	64%	15%	9%	5%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	11%	69%	8%	11%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	7%	44%	29%	20%	0%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	64%	17%	11%	9%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	7%	75%	11%	6%	2%
<b>About Equal</b>	15%	43%	25%	17%	>1%

**Q28: How likely are you to change your registration status from independent to either Democrat or Republican in the next five years?**

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Too Likely	Not Likely At All	Not Sure	Refused
<b>Overall</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&gt;1%</b>
<b>Very Conservative</b>	0%	17%	20%	62%	2%	0%
<b>Somewhat Conservative</b>	2%	13%	16%	67%	2%	0%
<b>Somewhat Liberal</b>	0%	12%	17%	71%	0%	0%
<b>Very Liberal</b>	0%	8%	11%	78%	3%	0%
<b>Moderate</b>	1%	4%	11%	84%	0%	1%
<b>Usually vote Republican</b>	2%	17%	15%	64%	2%	0%
<b>Usually vote Democrat</b>	0%	12%	15%	71%	>1%	>1%
<b>About Equal</b>	1%	8%	18%	72%	1%	0%