



Slim Majority Thinks Debt Deal will be Reached

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

52% of registered voters nationally think a deal to reduce the federal budget deficit will be reached by the end of the month. 42%, however, do not think a deal will be brokered, and the nation will go over the fiscal cliff. Six percent are unsure.

There is a partisan divide. 68% of Democrats believe a deal will occur. More than one in four -- 26% -- do not think a compromise will be found, and 6% are unsure. Among Republicans, a majority -- 54% -- does *not* think a plan will be hashed out by the deadline. 40%, however, think it will, and 6% are unsure. Independent voters divide. 48% think a deal will be reached while 46% say a compromise will not be found. Six percent are unsure.

"Most voters are worried about the fiscal cliff and think reaching a deal by month's end matters," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "But, like Washington, voters are polarized along party lines on the question of whether to allow the Bush tax cuts to expire and for whom."

If a deal is not reached, a plurality of U.S. registered voters -- 47% -- say Republicans in Congress are to blame. 36% believe President Barack Obama to be at fault, and 11% say both are responsible. Six percent report neither are to blame or are unsure.

Not surprisingly, 80% of Democrats blame the Republicans in Congress while 71% of Republicans nationally put the onus on the president. Among independents, 46% blame the Republicans in Congress while 34% say the fault is with President Obama.

Most Voters Concerned About Falling Off Fiscal Cliff, Many Think It Matters

Are voters worried that a plan to reduce the federal budget deficit will not be reached by the end of the month? 78% express some level of concern. This includes 39% of voters who

are very concerned and 39% who are concerned. 16% are not very concerned, and 6% are not concerned at all.

By party, 85% of Republicans, including a majority -- 55% -- who are very concerned, are worried about the fiscal cliff. Among Democrats, 74% have some degree of concern, including 26% who are highly concerned. 77% of independents are worried about not reaching a deficit agreement. This includes 38% who are very concerned and 39% who are worried.

More than seven in ten voters think it's important that President Obama and Congressional Republicans make a deal before year's end. 71% believe it matters if the two parties reach an agreement while 26% do not think it makes a difference. Two percent are unsure.

80% of Democrats and 71% of Republicans believe it matters whether the president and the Republicans in Congress reach a deal. 67% of independent voters agree.

Majority Backs Raising Taxes on Wealthy...Other Options Lack Support

When it comes to reducing the federal budget deficit, which proposals do registered voters nationally support?

- 57% support **allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire and raising taxes on the wealthy**. 40% oppose such an action, and 3% are unsure. While 75% of Democrats and 63% of independents favor this proposal, 68% of Republicans oppose it.
- Four in ten registered voters -- 40% -- favor **raising the Medicare age from 65 to 67**. 59% oppose it. One percent is unsure. 63% of Democrats, 56% of independents, and 56% of Republicans oppose this proposal.
- When it comes to **letting the Obama payroll tax cuts expire**, only 33% support this move while half of registered voters -- 50% -- oppose it. 17% are unsure. 56% of Democrats, 47% of independents, and 47% of Republicans are against the suggested measure.
- 29% of voters support **eliminating the tax deduction for home mortgage interest**. 67% oppose the proposal, and 4% are unsure. Regardless of party, there is a consensus. 69% of Democrats, 66% of Republicans, and 65% of independents are against eliminating this tax deduction.
- The **elimination of the tax deduction for charitable contributions** is supported by 28% of voters. 69% oppose it, and 3% are unsure. By party, 72% of Republicans, 69% of Democrats, and 67% of independents are against this proposal.
- 26% of registered voters support **cutting Medicaid spending** while 70% oppose it. Four percent are unsure. 83% of Democrats, 67% of independents, and 61% of Republicans are against cuts to Medicaid.
- Nearly one in four voters -- 24% -- support **letting the Bush tax cuts expire and raising taxes for everyone**. 74% oppose the proposal, and 2% are unsure.

Independent voters -- 80% -- and Republicans -- 77% -- are more likely to oppose the idea than Democrats. Still, 66% of Democrats are against this measure.

- When it comes to **cutting Medicare spending**, 23% support this measure. Nearly three in four voters -- 74% -- oppose such an action, and 3% are unsure. 85% of Democrats, 71% of independents, and 68% of Republicans are against cutting Medicare spending.

Voters Divide about Use of War Funds to Pay Down Debt

46% of registered voters believe the money saved by ending the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq should not be considered a cut in spending. 45%, however, believe these funds should count toward the targets set by the fiscal cliff agreement to pay down the debt. Nine percent are unsure.

There is a partisan divide. 50% of Democrats believe this money *should* go toward reducing the debt, and 38% do not. In contrast, 50% of Republicans *do not* believe money from Iraq and Afghanistan should count toward reducing the debt, and 39% believe it should. Among independent voters, 49% say the money should not count toward reducing the deficit while 46% believe it should.

Compromise is Key, Say Three in Four

In general, 74% of adults nationally think it is better for government officials to compromise to find solutions while 21% think it is better to stand on their principles even if it results in gridlock. Five percent are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters share these views.

83% of Democrats, 77% of independent voters, and 63% of Republicans say government officials should compromise to find solutions.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,246 Adults

This survey of 1,246 adults was conducted December 4th through December 6th, 2012. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.8 percentage points. There are 1,091 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		88%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%
	Republican	n/a	27%
	Independent	n/a	37%
	Other	n/a	1%
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	21%
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	13%
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	14%
	Just Independents	n/a	8%
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	15%
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	10%
	Strong Republicans	n/a	18%
Political Ideology	Other	n/a	1%
	Very conservative	n/a	14%
	Conservative	n/a	28%
	Moderate	n/a	37%
	Liberal	n/a	15%
Gender	Very liberal	n/a	6%
	Men	49%	48%
Age	Women	51%	52%
	Under 45	37%	32%
Age	45 or older	63%	68%
	18 to 29	17%	13%
	30 to 44	20%	19%
	45 to 59	32%	34%
Race	60 or older	32%	34%
	White	70%	73%
	African American	11%	11%
	Latino	12%	11%
Region	Other	6%	5%
	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	22%
	South	37%	37%
Household Income	West	23%	23%
	Less than \$50,000	50%	48%
Education	\$50,000 or more	50%	52%
	Not college graduate	62%	60%
Marital Status	College graduate	38%	40%
	Married	53%	55%
Interview Type	Not married	47%	45%
	Landline	74%	77%
	Cell Phone	26%	23%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, 2012, N=1246 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. National Registered Voters: N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Do you think President Obama and the Republicans in Congress will reach a deal or not reach a deal on the fiscal cliff before the end of the month deadline?		
		Will reach a deal	Will not reach a deal	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		52%	42%	6%
Party Identification	Democrat	68%	26%	6%
	Republican	40%	54%	6%
	Independent	48%	46%	6%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	70%	26%	5%
	Soft Democrats	62%	32%	6%
	Just Independents	35%	56%	9%
	Soft Republicans	46%	46%	8%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	36%	61%	3%
	Very liberal-Liberal	68%	28%	4%
	Moderate	56%	38%	6%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	42%	52%	6%
	Northeast	54%	41%	5%
	Midwest	52%	42%	6%
Household Income	South	51%	43%	6%
	West	52%	40%	8%
	Less than \$50,000	49%	45%	6%
Education	\$50,000 or more	56%	40%	4%
	Not college graduate	50%	45%	5%
Race	College graduate	56%	37%	7%
	White	49%	45%	6%
Age	African American	70%	23%	7%
	Latino	64%	35%	1%
	18 to 29	59%	37%	4%
Age	30 to 44	49%	45%	6%
	45 to 59	53%	44%	3%
	60 or older	52%	39%	9%
Age	Under 45	53%	42%	5%
	45 or older	53%	41%	6%
Gender	Men	49%	46%	5%
	Women	55%	38%	7%
Marital Status	Married	52%	42%	6%
	Not married	53%	41%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	51%	43%	6%
	Cell Phone	55%	39%	6%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters			
		If there is no agreement between Congress and President Obama by the end of the year, who do you think is more to blame:			
		The Republicans in			
		Congress	President Obama	Both	Neither-Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		47%	36%	11%	6%
Party Identification	Democrat	80%	9%	5%	6%
	Republican	12%	71%	11%	5%
	Independent	46%	34%	15%	5%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	90%	4%	2%	4%
	Soft Democrats	74%	11%	9%	6%
	Just Independents	36%	25%	23%	16%
	Soft Republicans	16%	60%	19%	5%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	9%	83%	6%	2%
	Very liberal-Liberal	87%	6%	4%	2%
	Moderate	55%	24%	14%	7%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	20%	62%	12%	5%
	Northeast	53%	25%	13%	8%
	Midwest	45%	39%	11%	4%
Household Income	South	48%	38%	10%	4%
	West	44%	37%	11%	8%
	Less than \$50,000	51%	30%	13%	5%
Education	\$50,000 or more	46%	40%	10%	4%
	Not college graduate	47%	34%	13%	6%
Race	College graduate	48%	37%	9%	5%
	White	42%	40%	13%	5%
Age	African American	72%	15%	6%	8%
	Latino	59%	30%	8%	4%
	18 to 29	50%	35%	7%	8%
Age	30 to 44	44%	39%	8%	9%
	45 to 59	49%	35%	13%	3%
	60 or older	47%	36%	12%	5%
Gender	Under 45	47%	37%	8%	8%
	45 or older	48%	35%	13%	4%
Marital Status	Men	40%	41%	13%	6%
	Women	54%	31%	10%	5%
Interview Type	Married	40%	42%	13%	6%
	Not married	57%	28%	9%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	47%	37%	11%	4%
	Cell Phone	48%	31%	12%	9%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters			
		If Congress and President Obama do not come up with a way to reduce the federal deficit by the end of this month, the Bush tax cuts will expire and there will be automatic government spending cuts, what is referred to as the fiscal cliff. Are you very concerned, concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all about the fiscal cliff?			
		Very concerned	Concerned	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		39%	39%	16%	6%
Party Identification	Democrat	26%	48%	19%	7%
	Republican	55%	30%	13%	2%
	Independent	38%	39%	16%	7%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	28%	48%	16%	9%
	Soft Democrats	24%	49%	22%	5%
	Just Independents	44%	32%	15%	9%
	Soft Republicans	45%	37%	13%	5%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	62%	23%	12%	3%
	Very liberal-Liberal	24%	46%	20%	10%
	Moderate	34%	44%	17%	5%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	50%	31%	14%	5%
	Northeast	35%	47%	12%	6%
	Midwest	38%	44%	14%	4%
Household Income	South	41%	33%	18%	7%
	West	37%	38%	18%	8%
	Less than \$50,000	39%	37%	17%	7%
Education	\$50,000 or more	38%	42%	15%	5%
	Not college graduate	40%	38%	15%	7%
Race	College graduate	36%	40%	18%	6%
	White	41%	40%	14%	5%
Age	African American	34%	35%	26%	5%
	Latino	26%	40%	24%	9%
	18 to 29	18%	39%	36%	7%
Age	30 to 44	38%	39%	18%	5%
	45 to 59	43%	40%	10%	7%
	60 or older	43%	37%	13%	7%
Gender	Under 45	30%	39%	25%	6%
	45 or older	43%	38%	12%	7%
Marital Status	Men	34%	36%	22%	8%
	Women	43%	42%	11%	5%
Interview Type	Married	40%	40%	15%	4%
	Not married	36%	37%	18%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	41%	41%	14%	5%
	Cell Phone	32%	34%	24%	10%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters		
		Do you think it matters whether Republicans in Congress and the President make a deal by the end of this month or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		71%	26%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	80%	18%	2%
	Republican	71%	29%	0%
	Independent	67%	29%	3%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	79%	20%	0%
	Moderate	74%	22%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	66%	33%	1%
Region	Northeast	70%	26%	3%
	Midwest	81%	17%	2%
	South	69%	29%	2%
	West	68%	29%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	72%	28%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	74%	25%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	71%	26%	3%
	College graduate	72%	27%	1%
Race	White	73%	26%	2%
	Non-white	71%	25%	4%
Age	Under 45	67%	31%	2%
	45 or older	73%	24%	2%
Gender	Men	61%	36%	3%
	Women	80%	18%	2%
Marital Status	Married	72%	26%	2%
	Not married	70%	27%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	72%	26%	2%
	Cell Phone	68%	29%	3%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=596 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Let the Bush tax cuts expire and raise taxes on individual income above \$200,000 or family income above \$250,000?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		57%	40%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	75%	20%	5%
	Republican	30%	68%	2%
	Independent	63%	35%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	84%	11%	5%
	Moderate	69%	30%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	37%	61%	3%
Region	Northeast	59%	39%	2%
	Midwest	59%	37%	3%
	South	55%	43%	2%
	West	58%	38%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	58%	39%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	59%	38%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	58%	38%	3%
	College graduate	58%	41%	2%
Race	White	58%	40%	3%
	Non-white	59%	37%	5%
Age	Under 45	55%	42%	3%
	45 or older	58%	39%	3%
Gender	Men	54%	44%	2%
	Women	60%	35%	4%
Marital Status	Married	55%	42%	2%
	Not married	60%	36%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	56%	41%	3%
	Cell Phone	60%	36%	4%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=553 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Raise the age to receive Medicare from 65 to 67?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		40%	59%	1%
Party Identification	Democrat	35%	63%	2%
	Republican	44%	56%	0%
	Independent	43%	56%	1%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	33%	64%	2%
	Moderate	45%	54%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	43%	56%	1%
Region	Northeast	44%	55%	1%
	Midwest	36%	63%	1%
	South	41%	59%	1%
	West	41%	58%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	37%	62%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	44%	56%	0%
Education	Not college graduate	35%	64%	2%
	College graduate	50%	50%	0%
Race	White	41%	58%	2%
	Non-white	39%	61%	0%
Age	Under 45	38%	62%	0%
	45 or older	41%	57%	2%
Gender	Men	46%	54%	0%
	Women	36%	62%	2%
Marital Status	Married	42%	57%	1%
	Not married	39%	60%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	41%	57%	1%
	Cell Phone	37%	62%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=538 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Let the Obama payroll tax cut expire?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		33%	50%	17%
Party Identification	Democrat	26%	56%	18%
	Republican	37%	47%	16%
	Independent	35%	47%	18%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	30%	49%	21%
	Moderate	31%	53%	16%
	Conservative-Very conservative	37%	48%	15%
Region	Northeast	31%	51%	18%
	Midwest	32%	49%	19%
	South	34%	52%	15%
	West	34%	46%	19%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	34%	44%	22%
	\$50,000 or more	32%	56%	12%
Education	Not college graduate	31%	51%	19%
	College graduate	35%	50%	15%
Race	White	34%	49%	18%
	Non-white	31%	52%	17%
Age	Under 45	32%	53%	15%
	45 or older	33%	49%	18%
Gender	Men	36%	52%	12%
	Women	30%	47%	23%
Marital Status	Married	36%	50%	14%
	Not married	28%	50%	22%
Interview Type	Landline	35%	48%	18%
	Cell Phone	27%	55%	17%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=553 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Eliminate the tax deduction for home mortgage interest?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		29%	67%	4%
Party Identification	Democrat	27%	69%	3%
	Republican	28%	66%	6%
	Independent	32%	65%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	31%	66%	2%
	Moderate	27%	70%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	30%	64%	6%
Region	Northeast	27%	67%	6%
	Midwest	27%	69%	4%
	South	34%	64%	2%
	West	24%	72%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	31%	64%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	26%	72%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	31%	64%	5%
	College graduate	26%	73%	1%
Race	White	26%	68%	5%
	Non-white	34%	66%	0%
Age	Under 45	34%	64%	2%
	45 or older	27%	69%	5%
Gender	Men	31%	67%	1%
	Women	27%	67%	6%
Marital Status	Married	28%	69%	3%
	Not married	30%	65%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	28%	68%	4%
	Cell Phone	32%	67%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=538 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Eliminate the tax deduction for charitable contributions?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		28%	69%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	29%	69%	2%
	Republican	25%	72%	3%
	Independent	30%	67%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	20%	78%	2%
	Moderate	35%	62%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	27%	69%	4%
Region	Northeast	41%	56%	3%
	Midwest	23%	75%	2%
	South	30%	68%	2%
	West	20%	75%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	33%	65%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	26%	72%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	35%	62%	3%
	College graduate	19%	79%	2%
Race	White	25%	71%	4%
	Non-white	37%	62%	1%
Age	Under 45	33%	65%	1%
	45 or older	27%	70%	4%
Gender	Men	29%	70%	1%
	Women	27%	68%	5%
Marital Status	Married	27%	69%	4%
	Not married	30%	68%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	70%	3%
	Cell Phone	31%	65%	4%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=538 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Cut spending for Medicaid?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		26%	70%	4%
Party Identification	Democrat	16%	83%	1%
	Republican	33%	61%	6%
	Independent	30%	67%	3%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	10%	89%	1%
	Moderate	22%	76%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	37%	59%	4%
Region	Northeast	29%	68%	3%
	Midwest	27%	69%	3%
	South	21%	77%	2%
	West	31%	61%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	22%	75%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	29%	68%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	21%	75%	4%
	College graduate	33%	64%	3%
Race	White	27%	69%	4%
	Non-white	23%	75%	2%
Age	Under 45	29%	67%	4%
	45 or older	25%	72%	2%
Gender	Men	31%	65%	4%
	Women	21%	75%	3%
Marital Status	Married	30%	67%	3%
	Not married	21%	74%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	69%	4%
	Cell Phone	24%	74%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=553 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Let the Bush tax cuts expire and raise taxes for everyone?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		24%	74%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	32%	66%	1%
	Republican	20%	77%	3%
	Independent	19%	80%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	39%	61%	1%
	Moderate	23%	75%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	15%	81%	4%
Region	Northeast	18%	81%	1%
	Midwest	25%	74%	1%
	South	24%	75%	1%
	West	27%	68%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	23%	74%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	27%	72%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	23%	74%	3%
	College graduate	26%	73%	1%
Race	White	23%	74%	3%
	Non-white	27%	73%	1%
Age	Under 45	20%	78%	1%
	45 or older	25%	72%	3%
Gender	Men	26%	72%	2%
	Women	22%	76%	2%
Marital Status	Married	21%	78%	1%
	Not married	28%	69%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	24%	73%	3%
	Cell Phone	22%	78%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=538 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Cut spending for Medicare?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		23%	74%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	14%	85%	1%
	Republican	26%	68%	5%
	Independent	28%	71%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	13%	87%	0%
	Moderate	19%	80%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	31%	65%	4%
Region	Northeast	26%	72%	2%
	Midwest	22%	74%	4%
	South	21%	77%	2%
	West	24%	72%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	16%	80%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	27%	72%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	18%	78%	4%
	College graduate	29%	70%	1%
Race	White	22%	75%	3%
	Non-white	24%	74%	2%
Age	Under 45	21%	75%	4%
	45 or older	24%	74%	2%
Gender	Men	31%	66%	3%
	Women	15%	82%	3%
Marital Status	Married	27%	71%	3%
	Not married	18%	79%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	23%	74%	3%
	Cell Phone	23%	75%	3%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=553 MOE +/- 4.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters		
		Some people say money the government is not spending by ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan should count towards the targets set by the fiscal cliff agreement for reducing the deficit. Other people say the government was borrowing that money so it shouldn't count as a cut in spending.		
		Which comes closer to your view: Money not spent by ending the wars should count or should not count toward targets set by the fiscal cliff agreement for reducing the deficit?		
		Should count	Should not count	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		45%	46%	9%
Party Identification	Democrat	50%	38%	11%
	Republican	39%	50%	12%
	Independent	46%	49%	5%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	60%	31%	10%
	Moderate	50%	41%	9%
	Conservative-Very conservative	34%	58%	9%
Region	Northeast	53%	44%	3%
	Midwest	43%	48%	8%
	South	48%	43%	9%
	West	36%	47%	16%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	43%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	48%	7%
Education	Not college graduate	44%	47%	9%
	College graduate	47%	44%	9%
Race	White	42%	47%	11%
	Non-white	54%	40%	6%
Age	Under 45	57%	39%	4%
	45 or older	40%	49%	10%
Gender	Men	48%	47%	5%
	Women	42%	44%	14%
Marital Status	Married	40%	50%	10%
	Not married	51%	40%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	40%	49%	10%
	Cell Phone	60%	34%	6%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=522 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Adults		
		In general, is it more important for government officials to:		
		Stand on principle		
		Compromise to find solutions	even if it means gridlock	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		74%	21%	5%
National Registered Voters		75%	21%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	83%	11%	5%
	Republican	63%	34%	3%
	Independent	77%	19%	4%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	85%	10%	5%
	Soft Democrats	86%	9%	5%
	Just Independents	71%	22%	7%
	Soft Republicans	70%	26%	4%
Political Ideology^	Strong Republicans	56%	42%	2%
	Very liberal-Liberal	89%	7%	4%
	Moderate	84%	12%	4%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	60%	36%	4%
	Northeast	76%	20%	3%
	Midwest	72%	23%	5%
Household Income	South	73%	22%	5%
	West	76%	17%	7%
	Less than \$50,000	71%	23%	6%
Education	\$50,000 or more	79%	19%	2%
	Not college graduate	71%	23%	6%
Race	College graduate	80%	18%	2%
	White	74%	22%	4%
	African American	77%	15%	8%
Age	Latino	74%	20%	6%
	18 to 29	75%	17%	9%
	30 to 44	75%	20%	5%
	45 to 59	76%	21%	3%
Age	60 or older	72%	23%	5%
	Under 45	75%	19%	6%
Gender	45 or older	74%	22%	4%
	Men	74%	23%	4%
Marital Status	Women	75%	19%	6%
	Married	72%	23%	5%
Interview Type	Not married	77%	18%	6%
	Landline	74%	22%	4%
	Cell Phone	76%	17%	7%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1246 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.