



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:

McClatchy-Marist Poll\*

**Nearly Seven in Ten Americans Not Optimistic  
About Federal Budget Deal**

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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**This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:**

Despite signals from lawmakers that a budget deal may be struck before the next deadline, many Americans aren't holding their breath that an agreement will be reached. 68% of adults nationally do not think President Barack Obama and the Republicans in Congress will have a meeting of the minds before time runs out. 28% say they will reach an agreement, and 4% are unsure. Almost identical proportions of registered voters share these views.

"Given the track record, it's not surprising that Americans are pessimistic," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "There are no winners in the budget battle in Washington as far as public opinion is concerned."

The sentiment in the nation has soured over budget deliberations between the president and Congress. When asked in December 2012 if Mr. Obama and the Congressional GOP would reach a fiscal cliff deal before the end of the year, a majority of voters -- 52% -- believed they would find common ground while 42% thought they would not come to an agreement. Six percent, at that time, were unsure.

At least six in ten voters think the deadline will pass without a budget in place regardless of party affiliation.

- 60% of Democrats do not think lawmakers will reach a consensus while 34% believe they will. Six percent are unsure. Last year, Democrats were much more optimistic. 68% of Democrats, then, thought a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff would be made. 26% did not think the two parties would reach an agreement, and 6% were unsure.

\*All references to the survey must be sourced as "McClatchy-Marist Poll"

- Three in four Republicans -- 75% -- say a budget plan will not be in place while 23% report they will reach a deal. Two percent are unsure. Pessimism among Republicans has grown. Last year, 54% of the GOP said a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff would not be reached. 40% thought a compromise would be found, and 6% were unsure.
- 69% of independents think federal lawmakers will not be successful in reaching a budget deal while 30% believe they will. One percent is unsure. In that previous McClatchy-Marist Poll, independents divided. 48% believed a fiscal cliff deal would be brokered while 46% said it would not be. Six percent were unsure.

### **Cut Spending to Reduce the Deficit? Three in Four Prefer another Option**

How should the nation close its budget gap? 38% prefer a combined approach which includes both raising revenues such as limiting tax deductions on higher income and cutting spending, including reductions in entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid. 37% of Americans would like the government to mostly increase revenues. 16% would like to see cuts to government spending. Nine percent are unsure.

In April, 42% of residents wanted to both reduce spending and increase revenues. 35% preferred increasing revenues only while 17% wanted to slash spending. Six percent, at that time, were unsure.

Among registered voters, 38% would like to both increase revenue and decrease spending. 37% support increasing revenues while 16% want to cut spending. Eight percent are unsure. In the spring, 42% endorsed both raising revenue and cutting spending. 34% preferred only raising revenue, and 18% wanted only spending cuts. Six percent, at that time, were unsure.

Who has the better approach to deal with the federal budget deficit? A plurality of Americans -- 46% -- say members of the GOP in Congress have a clearer vision while 41% think Obama has a keener approach. Less than one percent says both are capable to deal with the issue while 8% believe neither Obama nor the Republicans has a solid approach to tackle the federal budget deficit. Five percent are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters share these views.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in April, 44% of adults said Obama had the better approach while 40% thought the Republicans had the better plan. One percent thought both had a good vision while 9% believed neither had a clear sense of what needed to be done. Six percent, at that time, were unsure.

Not surprisingly, there is a partisan divide. Most Democrats think President Obama has the better approach to deal with the federal budget deficit, little changed from last April. Among Republicans, there has been a slight bump in the proportion who believe the Republicans in Congress have the better plan. Independents divide.

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- 76% of Democrats say President Obama has the clearer vision to deal with the deficit. This is little changed from 78% in the spring.
- 87% of Republicans say the members of their own party can lead the nation out of the deficit. This is up slightly from 81% in April.
- 45% of independent voters say the Congressional GOP has the better approach to take on the budget deficit while 40% report Obama has the clearer plan. This compares with 40% in the spring who said the Republicans in Congress had the stronger approach. 39%, at that time, reported Obama had the better plan.

### **Few Americans View Positive Effect of Sequestration**

Eighty-five billion dollars in across the board spending cuts took effect in March, and only 15% of Americans think those cuts have had a positive impact on the nation's economy. This compares with 38% who say they have had a negative impact on the economy and 40% who believe the cuts have had no impact at all on the nation's economic status. Six percent are unsure.

There has been little change on this question since it was last reported in the spring. At that time, 14% said the spending cuts did not improve the economy. 36% of residents thought the reduction in spending had a negative effect on the economy while 40% reported it had no impact at all on the economy. 10%, then, were unsure.

Among registered voters, 15% think sequestration had a positive impact on the economy. 37% believed it had a negative one, and 42% said it had no effect at all. Six percent are unsure. In McClatchy-Marist's previous survey, 13% of voters thought the spending cuts were beneficial to the economy. 36% reported they had a negative impact, and 42% said sequestration made no difference. Nine percent, at that time, were unsure.

On the home front, there has been a small bump in the proportion of Americans who say sequestration has had a negative effect on their family. 31% have this view compared with only 6% who think it has made their family's financial situation better. More than six in ten -- 61% -- believe the spending cuts have had no effect on them personally. Two percent are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters share these views.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in April, 26% of residents thought sequestration had a detrimental impact on their family while 6% said it had a positive one. Close to two-thirds of adults nationally -- 65% -- believed sequestration did not impact them. Three percent were unsure.

### **Round Two... Slim Majority Wants to Reopen Negotiations**

Under sequestration, another round of spending cuts is set to take place, but a slim majority of Americans aren't happy to see those reductions go forward. 51% think talks should be opened up again, and some of the cuts should be replaced with increases to taxes and fees.

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39% believe the planned cuts should proceed. Nine percent are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters share these views.

Not surprisingly, there is a partisan divide.

- 64% of Democrats nationally would like to reopen negotiations while 29% want the spending cuts to take place.
- 55% of Republicans want the spending cuts to go into effect while 38% want to revisit the cuts.
- 52% of independent voters are for reopening negotiations while 40% are for implementing the planned spending cuts.

**To prevent further spending cuts**, which methods do Americans find acceptable?

- About two-thirds -- 66% -- think **increasing the social security tax for high wage earners** is acceptable. 30% do not think such an action is acceptable. Four percent are unsure.
- Nearly six in ten -- 57% -- think it is okay to **tax Internet sales**. 39% oppose this proposal. Five percent are unsure.
- Only 39% say it is acceptable to increase **fees at national parks**. 59% say it is not acceptable. Two percent are unsure.

**To avoid increasing taxes and fees**, which methods do Americans find acceptable?

- A majority of Americans -- 55% -- say it is acceptable to **reduce pay and benefits to federal employees**. 42% are against this proposal, and 3% are unsure.
- Nearly half of residents -- 49% -- find it acceptable to **make cuts to the Affordable Health Care Act known as Obamacare**. 46% think this is unacceptable, and 5% are unsure.
- 43% believe it is acceptable to **cut defense spending**. This compares with a majority -- 54% -- who believe this is out of line. Two percent are unsure.
- Only 18% support **cuts to Medicare spending** while eight in ten -- 80% -- think this is unacceptable. Two percent are unsure.
- Just 13% think it is acceptable to **cut Social Security spending**. 86% do not believe this is acceptable, and 1% is unsure.

### **Majority Pessimistic about the Future of the U.S. Economy**

Overall, what do Americans think of the nation's economy? 55% think the worst of the country's economic conditions are still ahead. 42% believe the worst is behind us, and 3% are unsure.

When McClatchy-Marist reported this question in December 2012, 53% of Americans said the worst was yet to come. 42% reported the worst was over, and 5% were unsure.

Looking at Americans' attitudes toward the future of their own finances, 43% say, in the next year, they will be about the same economically. 25% report they will be better off while 32%

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say they will be worse off. In McClatchy-Marist's July survey, 39% of residents thought their finances would not change in the next year. 29% said they would be better off, and 32% reported they would be economically worse off.

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## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,173 Adults**

This survey of 1,173 adults was conducted December 3<sup>rd</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 by The Marist Poll sponsored in partnership with the McClatchy News Service. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. 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 from Survey Sampling International. 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  $\pm 2.9$  percentage points. There are 988 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.1$  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		84%	100%	
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	31%	
	Republican	n/a	27%	
	Independent	n/a	41%	
	Other	n/a	1%	
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	19%	
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	12%	
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	16%	
	Just Independents	n/a	8%	
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	16%	
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	12%	
	Strong Republicans	n/a	15%	
	Other	n/a	1%	
	Political Ideology	Very conservative	n/a	12%
		Conservative	n/a	29%
Moderate		n/a	34%	
Liberal		n/a	18%	
	Very liberal	n/a	6%	
Tea Party Supporters		n/a	27%	
Gender	Men	49%	48%	
	Women	51%	52%	
Age	Under 45	41%	38%	
	45 or older	59%	62%	
Age	18 to 29	17%	14%	
	30 to 44	24%	25%	
	45 to 59	29%	30%	
	60 or older	30%	31%	
Race	White	68%	70%	
	African American	11%	11%	
	Latino	13%	11%	
	Other	7%	7%	
Region	Northeast	18%	18%	
	Midwest	22%	23%	
	South	37%	37%	
	West	23%	22%	
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	47%	
	\$50,000 or more	51%	53%	
Education	Not college graduate	62%	58%	
	College graduate	38%	42%	
Marital Status	Married	52%	57%	
	Not married	48%	43%	
Interview Type	Landline	67%	68%	
	Cell phone	33%	32%	

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=1173 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points.  
National Registered Voters: n=988 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think President Obama and the Republicans in Congress will reach a deal or not reach a deal on the federal budget before the next deadline?		
		Will reach a deal	Will not reach a deal	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		28%	68%	4%
National Registered Voters		29%	68%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	34%	60%	6%
	Republican	23%	75%	2%
	Independent	30%	69%	1%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	39%	56%	5%
	Soft Democrats	32%	65%	3%
	Just Independents	32%	65%	2%
	Soft Republicans	21%	78%	0%
	Strong Republicans	25%	72%	3%
Tea Party Supporters^		19%	80%	2%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	35%	62%	3%
	Moderate	29%	68%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	26%	72%	2%
Region	Northeast	29%	68%	4%
	Midwest	27%	70%	3%
	South	30%	67%	3%
	West	26%	68%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	30%	66%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	27%	71%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	26%	70%	4%
	College graduate	32%	64%	3%
Race	White	25%	72%	3%
	African American	48%	45%	7%
	Latino	29%	68%	3%
Age	18 to 29	36%	59%	5%
	30 to 44	22%	76%	2%
	45 to 59	30%	67%	2%
	60 or older	27%	68%	5%
Age	Under 45	28%	68%	3%
	45 or older	29%	68%	4%
Gender	Men	29%	68%	2%
	Women	27%	68%	5%
Marital Status	Married	28%	70%	3%
	Not married	29%	66%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	70%	4%
	Cell phone	31%	65%	4%

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\*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.



McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults			
		Which of the following comes closest to your view about how to reduce the federal budget deficit:			
		Mostly cut government spending including entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid	Mostly increase revenues such as limiting tax deductions on higher income	Do both, cut spending including entitlement programs and increase revenues by limiting tax deductions on higher income	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		16%	37%	38%	9%
National Registered Voters		16%	37%	38%	8%
Party Identification^	Democrat	5%	55%	33%	7%
	Republican	33%	19%	39%	8%
	Independent	13%	36%	43%	8%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	3%	58%	32%	6%
	Soft Democrats	5%	52%	36%	7%
	Just Independents	15%	38%	32%	15%
	Soft Republicans	23%	19%	49%	8%
	Strong Republicans	40%	18%	37%	5%
Tea Party Supporters^		34%	17%	40%	9%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	6%	58%	28%	8%
	Moderate	7%	41%	45%	6%
	Conservative-Very conservative	31%	21%	40%	9%
Region	Northeast	15%	39%	35%	11%
	Midwest	14%	41%	40%	5%
	South	18%	37%	36%	10%
	West	18%	30%	42%	10%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	11%	38%	38%	12%
	\$50,000 or more	19%	36%	39%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	37%	36%	10%
	College graduate	16%	35%	42%	7%
Race	White	19%	36%	38%	8%
	African American	7%	42%	39%	12%
	Latino	14%	38%	41%	7%
Age	18 to 29	15%	27%	51%	7%
	30 to 44	17%	35%	42%	6%
	45 to 59	14%	43%	35%	9%
	60 or older	19%	38%	31%	13%
Age	Under 45	16%	32%	46%	7%
	45 or older	16%	40%	33%	11%
Gender	Men	21%	33%	39%	7%
	Women	12%	40%	37%	11%
Marital Status	Married	20%	33%	38%	9%
	Not married	13%	40%	38%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	17%	37%	35%	10%
	Cell phone	14%	36%	44%	7%

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\*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.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults				
		Who do you think has a better approach to deal with the federal budget deficit:				
		The Congressional				
		Republicans	President Obama	Both	Neither	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		46%	41%	<1%	8%	5%
National Registered Voters		47%	42%	0%	8%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	15%	76%	1%	5%	3%
	Republican	87%	7%	0%	4%	2%
	Independent	45%	40%	0%	12%	3%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	9%	88%	0%	1%	1%
	Soft Democrats	22%	66%	0%	7%	4%
	Just Independents	24%	38%	0%	28%	10%
	Soft Republicans	81%	9%	0%	9%	2%
	Strong Republicans	92%	5%	0%	2%	1%
Tea Party Supporters^		84%	8%	0%	7%	2%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	13%	77%	0%	7%	3%
	Moderate	42%	45%	0%	10%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	71%	20%	0%	6%	2%
Region	Northeast	42%	47%	0%	8%	3%
	Midwest	47%	42%	0%	6%	6%
	South	51%	37%	0%	9%	3%
	West	41%	42%	0%	10%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	45%	41%	0%	8%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	46%	42%	0%	8%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	49%	37%	0%	9%	5%
	College graduate	42%	48%	1%	7%	3%
Race	White	54%	33%	0%	8%	4%
	African American	16%	77%	1%	2%	4%
	Latino	37%	40%	0%	16%	7%
Age	18 to 29	49%	36%	0%	8%	6%
	30 to 44	44%	40%	0%	9%	7%
	45 to 59	45%	44%	0%	8%	3%
	60 or older	47%	41%	0%	8%	3%
Age	Under 45	46%	38%	0%	9%	6%
	45 or older	46%	43%	0%	8%	3%
Gender	Men	48%	38%	0%	10%	3%
	Women	44%	43%	0%	6%	6%
Marital Status	Married	51%	38%	0%	8%	3%
	Not married	40%	44%	0%	9%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	47%	40%	0%	8%	4%
	Cell phone	44%	42%	0%	9%	5%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=1173 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points.

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\*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.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults			
		\$85 billion in automatic across-the-board spending cuts to the federal budget took effect on March 1st. Do you think these spending cuts have had a positive effect on the economy, a negative effect, or no effect at all on the economy?			
		Positive effect on the economy	Negative effect on the economy	No effect at all on the economy	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		15%	38%	40%	6%
National Registered Voters		15%	37%	42%	6%
Party Identification^	Democrat	16%	50%	29%	4%
	Republican	17%	23%	52%	8%
	Independent	12%	37%	44%	7%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	17%	53%	26%	4%
	Soft Democrats	14%	47%	34%	5%
	Just Independents	14%	38%	38%	10%
	Soft Republicans	13%	22%	57%	8%
	Strong Republicans	16%	27%	49%	8%
Tea Party Supporters^		17%	27%	50%	5%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	13%	53%	29%	5%
	Moderate	14%	35%	44%	7%
	Conservative-Very conservative	17%	30%	47%	6%
Region	Northeast	16%	41%	40%	3%
	Midwest	17%	36%	43%	5%
	South	14%	39%	40%	7%
	West	13%	38%	39%	9%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	11%	45%	36%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	32%	46%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	37%	40%	7%
	College graduate	12%	40%	42%	6%
Race	White	12%	34%	46%	7%
	African American	22%	50%	26%	3%
	Latino	13%	49%	31%	7%
Age	18 to 29	11%	44%	37%	8%
	30 to 44	15%	36%	43%	6%
	45 to 59	17%	38%	40%	5%
	60 or older	15%	37%	40%	7%
Age	Under 45	13%	39%	41%	7%
	45 or older	16%	38%	40%	6%
Gender	Men	15%	36%	44%	6%
	Women	15%	41%	37%	7%
Marital Status	Married	17%	33%	44%	6%
	Not married	13%	43%	36%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	14%	38%	42%	6%
	Cell phone	16%	38%	38%	8%

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McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults			
		What about for you and your family: Since these automatic across-the-board spending cuts took effect, do you think they have had a positive effect on you and your family, a negative effect, or no effect at all on you and your family?			
		Positive effect on you and your family	Negative effect on you and your family	No effect at all on you and your family	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		6%	31%	61%	2%
National Registered Voters		5%	31%	63%	1%
Party Identification^	Democrat	6%	32%	60%	1%
	Republican	3%	31%	65%	1%
	Independent	5%	30%	63%	1%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	7%	31%	61%	1%
	Soft Democrats	5%	30%	63%	1%
	Just Independents	5%	38%	56%	1%
	Soft Republicans	4%	27%	68%	1%
	Strong Republicans	4%	36%	58%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		6%	30%	62%	2%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	6%	29%	64%	1%
	Moderate	5%	29%	66%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	5%	34%	60%	2%
Region	Northeast	5%	33%	59%	3%
	Midwest	5%	28%	66%	1%
	South	8%	30%	59%	3%
	West	4%	35%	62%	0%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	7%	40%	50%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	4%	22%	73%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	8%	33%	56%	3%
	College graduate	2%	27%	70%	1%
Race	White	5%	31%	64%	1%
	African American	11%	31%	55%	3%
	Latino	8%	35%	50%	7%
Age	18 to 29	6%	32%	59%	3%
	30 to 44	3%	29%	67%	1%
	45 to 59	5%	32%	61%	2%
	60 or older	8%	31%	59%	2%
Age	Under 45	4%	30%	64%	2%
	45 or older	7%	32%	60%	2%
Gender	Men	5%	28%	64%	3%
	Women	6%	33%	59%	1%
Marital Status	Married	4%	29%	66%	1%
	Not married	8%	33%	56%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	4%	32%	63%	1%
	Cell phone	8%	29%	59%	4%

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McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Under sequestration a second round of across the board federal budget spending cuts is scheduled to take effect. Would you prefer:		
		To go ahead with the across the board spending cuts to the federal budget as originally scheduled	To reopen negotiations over spending cuts and replace some with increases to taxes and fees	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		39%	51%	9%
National Registered Voters		41%	52%	8%
Party Identification^	Democrat	29%	64%	7%
	Republican	55%	38%	7%
	Independent	40%	52%	8%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	26%	67%	8%
	Soft Democrats	30%	63%	7%
	Just Independents	40%	43%	17%
	Soft Republicans	54%	40%	5%
	Strong Republicans	54%	38%	8%
Tea Party Supporters^		56%	38%	6%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	22%	69%	9%
	Moderate	39%	55%	6%
	Conservative-Very conservative	53%	39%	7%
Region	Northeast	36%	53%	11%
	Midwest	46%	47%	7%
	South	38%	52%	10%
	West	39%	53%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	34%	55%	11%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	49%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	40%	51%	9%
	College graduate	39%	53%	8%
Race	White	42%	49%	9%
	African American	40%	51%	9%
	Latino	31%	57%	12%
Age	18 to 29	39%	51%	10%
	30 to 44	45%	49%	6%
	45 to 59	37%	53%	10%
	60 or older	37%	52%	11%
Age	Under 45	43%	50%	8%
	45 or older	37%	53%	10%
Gender	Men	42%	50%	7%
	Women	36%	52%	11%
Marital Status	Married	45%	49%	7%
	Not married	33%	55%	12%
Interview Type	Landline	41%	51%	8%
	Cell phone	37%	52%	11%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=1173 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=988 MOE +/- 3.1 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.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following taxes and fees are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid further spending cuts: <b>Increase the social security tax for high wage earners?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		66%	30%	4%
National Registered Voters		66%	30%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	77%	20%	3%
	Republican	53%	41%	6%
	Independent	68%	29%	3%
Tea Party Supporters^		56%	38%	6%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	78%	19%	2%
	Moderate	75%	24%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	51%	44%	5%
Region	Northeast	69%	27%	5%
	Midwest	68%	30%	2%
	South	64%	32%	5%
	West	67%	31%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	67%	30%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	69%	28%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	64%	33%	3%
	College graduate	71%	24%	5%
Race	White	64%	32%	4%
	Non-white	72%	26%	3%
Age	18 to 29	70%	30%	0%
	30 to 44	72%	24%	4%
	45 to 59	66%	32%	3%
	60 or older	61%	33%	6%
Age	Under 45	71%	26%	2%
	45 or older	63%	32%	4%
Gender	Men	68%	30%	2%
	Women	65%	30%	5%
Marital Status	Married	65%	32%	4%
	Not married	69%	28%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	66%	30%	4%
	Cell phone	67%	30%	3%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=593 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=495 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following taxes and fees are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid further spending cuts: <b>Tax Internet sales?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		57%	39%	5%
National Registered Voters		57%	38%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	61%	33%	6%
	Republican	56%	40%	4%
	Independent	56%	40%	4%
Tea Party Supporters^		48%	49%	3%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	60%	34%	6%
	Moderate	65%	32%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	48%	46%	6%
Region	Northeast	53%	42%	5%
	Midwest	58%	38%	4%
	South	56%	37%	7%
	West	60%	38%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	56%	38%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	59%	39%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	53%	43%	5%
	College graduate	64%	31%	5%
Race	White	57%	38%	5%
	Non-white	57%	38%	5%
Age	18 to 29	57%	43%	0%
	30 to 44	62%	36%	2%
	45 to 59	58%	38%	3%
	60 or older	51%	39%	10%
Age	Under 45	60%	38%	1%
	45 or older	55%	38%	7%
Gender	Men	57%	39%	4%
	Women	56%	38%	5%
Marital Status	Married	59%	38%	4%
	Not married	55%	39%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	58%	37%	5%
	Cell phone	54%	42%	4%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=593 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=495 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following taxes and fees are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid further spending cuts: <b>Increase fees at national parks?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		39%	59%	2%
National Registered Voters		38%	59%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	33%	64%	3%
	Republican	36%	60%	4%
	Independent	42%	55%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		45%	52%	3%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	38%	57%	5%
	Moderate	38%	61%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	37%	61%	2%
Region	Northeast	31%	63%	6%
	Midwest	42%	57%	1%
	South	39%	58%	2%
	West	42%	57%	1%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	57%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	38%	60%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	38%	61%	1%
	College graduate	40%	56%	5%
Race	White	38%	60%	2%
	Non-white	41%	56%	4%
Age	18 to 29	42%	58%	0%
	30 to 44	46%	51%	3%
	45 to 59	38%	60%	2%
	60 or older	34%	64%	3%
Age	Under 45	44%	54%	2%
	45 or older	36%	62%	2%
Gender	Men	40%	59%	2%
	Women	38%	59%	3%
Marital Status	Married	38%	61%	1%
	Not married	40%	57%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	39%	59%	2%
	Cell phone	39%	59%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=593 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=495 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.



McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following spending cuts are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid increasing taxes and fees: <b>Reduce pay and benefits to federal employees?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		55%	42%	3%
National Registered Voters		55%	42%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	35%	64%	1%
	Republican	67%	30%	3%
	Independent	62%	35%	3%
Tea Party Supporters^		73%	24%	3%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	45%	52%	3%
	Moderate	55%	44%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	60%	37%	3%
Region	Northeast	49%	49%	3%
	Midwest	58%	41%	1%
	South	59%	38%	3%
	West	48%	46%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	53%	44%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	55%	43%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	55%	41%	4%
	College graduate	53%	45%	2%
Race	White	59%	38%	2%
	Non-white	43%	51%	5%
Age	18 to 29	41%	55%	4%
	30 to 44	61%	38%	1%
	45 to 59	60%	36%	4%
	60 or older	54%	43%	3%
Age	Under 45	52%	46%	2%
	45 or older	57%	39%	3%
Gender	Men	58%	38%	4%
	Women	52%	46%	2%
Marital Status	Married	59%	37%	3%
	Not married	48%	48%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	55%	41%	4%
	Cell phone	53%	44%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=580 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=492 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following spending cuts are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid increasing taxes and fees: <b>Cuts to the affordable health care act known as Obamacare?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		49%	46%	5%
National Registered Voters		51%	46%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	26%	69%	5%
	Republican	77%	21%	2%
	Independent	53%	45%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		79%	20%	1%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	34%	63%	3%
	Moderate	47%	49%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	64%	34%	2%
Region	Northeast	47%	49%	4%
	Midwest	51%	44%	4%
	South	50%	45%	4%
	West	45%	49%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%	49%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	47%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	51%	45%	4%
	College graduate	47%	49%	5%
Race	White	55%	41%	4%
	Non-white	33%	62%	4%
Age	18 to 29	44%	52%	4%
	30 to 44	56%	40%	5%
	45 to 59	51%	46%	4%
	60 or older	45%	48%	6%
Age	Under 45	50%	45%	4%
	45 or older	48%	47%	5%
Gender	Men	55%	42%	3%
	Women	43%	51%	7%
Marital Status	Married	56%	40%	4%
	Not married	43%	52%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	51%	43%	6%
	Cell phone	45%	53%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=580 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=492 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following spending cuts are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid increasing taxes and fees: <b>Cuts to defense spending?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		43%	54%	2%
National Registered Voters		44%	54%	2%
Party Identification <sup>^</sup>	Democrat	52%	45%	3%
	Republican	28%	70%	2%
	Independent	50%	50%	1%
Tea Party Supporters <sup>^</sup>		26%	73%	1%
Political Ideology <sup>^</sup>	Very liberal-Liberal	61%	39%	0%
	Moderate	57%	40%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	27%	71%	2%
Region	Northeast	47%	50%	3%
	Midwest	47%	51%	2%
	South	38%	60%	2%
	West	45%	52%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	39%	58%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	49%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	39%	59%	2%
	College graduate	52%	46%	3%
Race	White	41%	57%	2%
	Non-white	48%	49%	3%
Age	18 to 29	49%	47%	4%
	30 to 44	44%	55%	1%
	45 to 59	41%	58%	2%
	60 or older	42%	55%	3%
Age	Under 45	46%	51%	2%
	45 or older	42%	56%	2%
Gender	Men	45%	54%	1%
	Women	42%	54%	4%
Marital Status	Married	44%	54%	2%
	Not married	44%	53%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	44%	53%	3%
	Cell phone	42%	56%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=580 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

<sup>^</sup>National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=492 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following spending cuts are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid increasing taxes and fees: <b>Cuts to Medicare?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		18%	80%	2%
National Registered Voters		15%	83%	2%
Party Identification^	Democrat	7%	93%	0%
	Republican	24%	72%	4%
	Independent	16%	82%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		27%	68%	4%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	9%	91%	0%
	Moderate	12%	86%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	23%	75%	3%
Region	Northeast	19%	79%	2%
	Midwest	13%	86%	1%
	South	21%	77%	2%
	West	19%	79%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	15%	83%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	21%	77%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	83%	2%
	College graduate	23%	75%	3%
Race	White	18%	79%	3%
	Non-white	17%	83%	0%
Age	18 to 29	33%	64%	3%
	30 to 44	15%	83%	2%
	45 to 59	14%	85%	1%
	60 or older	14%	83%	3%
Age	Under 45	24%	74%	2%
	45 or older	14%	84%	2%
Gender	Men	22%	76%	2%
	Women	15%	83%	2%
Marital Status	Married	20%	78%	2%
	Not married	16%	82%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	18%	80%	2%
	Cell phone	19%	79%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=580 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=492 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		Do you think each of the following spending cuts are acceptable or not acceptable to avoid increasing taxes and fees: <b>Cuts to Social Security?</b>		
		Acceptable	Not acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		13%	86%	1%
National Registered Voters		13%	87%	0%
Party Identification^	Democrat	8%	92%	0%
	Republican	19%	80%	1%
	Independent	12%	88%	0%
Tea Party Supporters^		18%	81%	1%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	11%	89%	0%
	Moderate	9%	91%	0%
	Conservative-Very conservative	18%	82%	1%
Region	Northeast	16%	82%	2%
	Midwest	11%	89%	0%
	South	11%	87%	2%
	West	16%	84%	0%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	11%	88%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	16%	82%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	12%	87%	1%
	College graduate	15%	84%	1%
Race	White	12%	87%	1%
	Non-white	12%	86%	2%
Age	18 to 29	19%	80%	1%
	30 to 44	16%	84%	0%
	45 to 59	10%	88%	1%
	60 or older	8%	90%	1%
Age	Under 45	17%	82%	1%
	45 or older	10%	89%	1%
Gender	Men	18%	81%	1%
	Women	8%	91%	2%
Marital Status	Married	12%	87%	1%
	Not married	14%	85%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	13%	86%	1%
	Cell phone	12%	86%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=580 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=492 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
		The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		55%	42%	3%
National Registered Voters		56%	42%	2%
Party Identification^	Democrat	36%	62%	3%
	Republican	74%	23%	3%
	Independent	58%	41%	1%
Tea Party Supporters^		80%	18%	3%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	37%	62%	1%
	Moderate	48%	49%	4%
	Conservative-Very conservative	74%	25%	1%
Region	Northeast	58%	39%	4%
	Midwest	58%	41%	1%
	South	56%	41%	2%
	West	50%	46%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	59%	40%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	45%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	36%	2%
	College graduate	44%	52%	4%
Race	White	61%	36%	3%
	Non-white	44%	54%	2%
Age	18 to 29	49%	47%	4%
	30 to 44	60%	37%	3%
	45 to 59	53%	46%	1%
	60 or older	57%	40%	3%
Age	Under 45	56%	41%	3%
	45 or older	55%	43%	2%
Gender	Men	55%	42%	2%
	Women	55%	42%	3%
Marital Status	Married	58%	39%	3%
	Not married	52%	45%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	57%	41%	2%
	Cell phone	52%	44%	4%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=600 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=519 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

	National Adults		
	When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
	The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2013	55%	42%	3%
December 2012	53%	42%	5%
March 2012	45%	49%	6%
November 2011	53%	41%	5%
September 2011	61%	35%	3%
August 2011	68%	27%	6%
July 2011	53%	42%	6%
April 2011	57%	39%	4%
January 2011	39%	54%	7%
December 2010	53%	39%	8%
November 29, 2010	51%	45%	5%
October 28, 2010	47%	45%	8%
October 8, 2010	50%	46%	4%
September 21, 2010	52%	44%	4%
Marist Poll National Adults			

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables: Economy, Budget Deficit, Sequestration

		National Adults		
		In the coming year, do you feel you will be economically better off, about the same, or worse off than you are now?		
		Better off	About the same	Worse off
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		25%	43%	32%
National Registered Voters		24%	42%	33%
Party Identification^	Democrat	32%	53%	15%
	Republican	8%	34%	58%
	Independent	28%	39%	33%
Tea Party Supporters^		6%	35%	60%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	37%	43%	20%
	Moderate	29%	46%	25%
	Conservative-Very conservative	12%	39%	50%
Region	Northeast	28%	42%	30%
	Midwest	28%	49%	23%
	South	24%	41%	35%
	West	21%	42%	37%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	26%	42%	32%
	\$50,000 or more	25%	44%	31%
Education	Not college graduate	23%	43%	34%
	College graduate	28%	43%	28%
Race	White	18%	42%	40%
	Non-white	39%	47%	14%
Age	18 to 29	47%	40%	13%
	30 to 44	26%	48%	26%
	45 to 59	21%	42%	37%
	60 or older	17%	44%	39%
Age	Under 45	35%	45%	20%
	45 or older	19%	43%	38%
Gender	Men	28%	42%	30%
	Women	22%	44%	33%
Marital Status	Married	22%	37%	41%
	Not married	29%	50%	22%
Interview Type	Landline	19%	43%	38%
	Cell phone	38%	43%	18%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=573 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Split Sample: n=468 MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.