



**POLL MUST BE SOURCED:**  
**NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll\***

**Americans Not Optimistic About Middle East Peace;  
Polarized Electorate for 2014 Agrees on Do Nothing Congress**

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

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**This NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll Reports:**

Americans are not confident a lasting peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians is in the foreseeable future. Although Republicans are more likely than Democrats to doubt a settlement can be reached, a majority of Americans, regardless of party, are not encouraged. There is also a greater consensus among Republicans in their support for Israel. About four in ten Democrats and independents also sympathize with the Israelis over the Palestinians, but the plurality of each of these groups is not sure with which side they have more empathy.

When it comes to an assessment of the accomplishments of the current Congress, most Americans agree, regardless of party, that Congress has come up short. More than seven in ten believe this year's congressional output has been abysmal. Nearly half of Americans describe the session as having been *very unproductive*. Partisan lines are quickly drawn though when people are asked about their hopes for the results of this fall's elections. Democrats and Republicans each hope their respective party will control both the House and Senate.

**Poll Points: Middle East**

- 62% of Americans do not believe the Israelis and the Palestinians will be able to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East. 71% of Republicans, 66% of independents, and 53% of Democrats hold this view.
- There is also a notable difference among age groups. People under 45 are less pessimistic about a potential settlement than their older counterparts.

\*All references to the survey must be sourced as "NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll"

- Americans' sympathies are more likely to be with Israel than the Palestinians. However, only 43% of the U.S. public sides with Israel, 43% are unsure, and 14% empathize with the Palestinians. 66% of Republicans align with Israel compared with 39% of independents and 35% of Democrats.
- There is little sympathy among Americans for Hamas. 54% of Americans side with Israel and only 7% are more sympathetic to Hamas. Yet, there is a significant partisan divide. 73% of Republicans back Israel over Hamas. 46% of Democrats sympathize with Israel, but 44% are unsure.

### **Poll Points: Congress**

- 72% of Americans believe Congress has been unproductive this year including 47% who describe their work as *very unproductive*. 23% characterize it as productive including only 3% who view their accomplishments as very productive.
- This low opinion of Congress cuts across partisan lines. 77% of independents, 73% of Republicans, and 71% of Democrats give Congress a thumbs down.
- However, partisanship resurfaces when Americans express their hopes for the outcome of the 2014 elections. Overall, Americans split, 42% Democrats to 41% Republicans, as to whom they want to emerge with the majority in Congress next term. 85% of Democrats and 92% of Republicans want their respective party to win the majority. Independents lean Republican 38% to 34%.
- Americans divide along similar lines when expressing their wishes for the results of the U.S. Senate. 43% want the Democrats to hold the majority and 42% want Republicans to control the Senate. Again, party differences are stark. 83% of Democrats want their party to hold the Senate, and 94% of Republicans want their party to take over the chamber. Independents evenly divide, 38% to 38%.
- In both instances, independents are most undecided about which party they favor. However, about one in ten Democrats are also unsure about which party they want to see control each chamber. Fewer Republicans are uncertain.

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## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: NBC News/WSJ/Marist National Poll of 760 Adults**

This survey of 760 adults was conducted July 28<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 by The Marist Poll sponsored in partnership with NBC News and *The Wall Street Journal*. 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. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. Results are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.6$  percentage points. There are 634 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.9$  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		83%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	32%
	Republican	n/a	28%
	Independent	n/a	39%
	Other	n/a	1%
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	19%
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	13%
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	13%
	Just Independents	n/a	11%
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	14%
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	10%
	Strong Republicans	n/a	18%
Political Ideology	Other	n/a	1%
	Very liberal	n/a	8%
	Liberal	n/a	14%
	Moderate	n/a	33%
	Conservative	n/a	32%
Tea Party Supporters	Very conservative	n/a	13%
		n/a	25%
Gender	Men	49%	48%
	Women	51%	52%
Age	Under 45	45%	41%
	45 or older	55%	59%
Age	18 to 29	22%	18%
	30 to 44	23%	23%
	45 to 59	27%	28%
	60 or older	28%	31%
Race	White	65%	69%
	African American	13%	12%
	Latino	15%	12%
	Other	7%	7%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	24%
	South	37%	35%
	West	23%	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	46%
	\$50,000 or more	50%	54%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	59%
	College graduate	38%	41%
Interview Type	Landline	51%	54%
	Cell phone	49%	46%

NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2014, n=760 MOE +/- 3.6 percentage points.  
National Registered Voters: n=634 MOE +/- 3.9 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		When it comes to the current conflict in the Middle East, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?		
		Israelis	Palestinians	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		43%	14%	43%
National Registered Voters		46%	14%	40%
Party Identification^	Democrat	35%	18%	46%
	Republican	66%	7%	27%
	Independent	39%	15%	46%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	35%	18%	47%
	Soft Democrats	32%	20%	48%
	Just Independents	14%	14%	72%
	Soft Republicans	65%	9%	26%
	Strong Republicans	71%	6%	23%
Tea Party Supporters^		68%	10%	23%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	26%	32%	43%
	Moderate	45%	10%	45%
	Conservative-Very conservative	58%	7%	34%
Region	Northeast	33%	18%	50%
	Midwest	43%	16%	41%
	South	47%	11%	43%
	West	46%	14%	40%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	13%	46%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	14%	37%
Education	Not college graduate	40%	12%	48%
	College graduate	48%	17%	35%
Race	White	49%	14%	37%
	African American	26%	21%	52%
	Latino	37%	4%	59%
Age	18 to 29	27%	24%	49%
	30 to 44	39%	14%	47%
	45 to 59	45%	10%	45%
	60 or older	59%	8%	33%
Age	Under 45	33%	19%	48%
	45 or older	52%	9%	39%
Gender	Men	42%	18%	40%
	Women	44%	10%	46%
Interview Type	Landline	50%	11%	39%
	Cell phone	36%	17%	47%

NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 28th through July 31st, 2014, n=760 MOE

+/- 3.6 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=634 MOE +/- 3.9 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.

NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		When it comes to the current conflict in the Middle East, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with Hamas?		
		Israelis	Hamas	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		54%	7%	39%
National Registered Voters		56%	6%	38%
Party Identification^	Democrat	46%	10%	44%
	Republican	73%	4%	23%
	Independent	51%	5%	43%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	46%	10%	44%
	Soft Democrats	46%	5%	49%
	Just Independents	26%	8%	66%
	Soft Republicans	75%	6%	20%
	Strong Republicans	74%	4%	22%
Tea Party Supporters^		71%	7%	22%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	46%	12%	42%
	Moderate	54%	3%	43%
	Conservative-Very conservative	64%	4%	32%
Region	Northeast	45%	8%	47%
	Midwest	50%	10%	40%
	South	57%	5%	39%
	West	61%	6%	33%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	8%	42%
	\$50,000 or more	62%	4%	34%
Education	Not college graduate	52%	7%	41%
	College graduate	58%	6%	36%
Race	White	61%	5%	35%
	African American	34%	18%	48%
	Latino	51%	1%	49%
Age	18 to 29	41%	17%	42%
	30 to 44	49%	5%	46%
	45 to 59	57%	5%	39%
	60 or older	67%	2%	31%
Age	Under 45	45%	11%	44%
	45 or older	62%	3%	35%
Gender	Men	56%	6%	38%
	Women	52%	7%	41%
Interview Type	Landline	60%	3%	36%
	Cell phone	48%	10%	42%

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## NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you believe that the <Palestinians and Israelis / Israelis and Palestinians> will or will not be able to form a lasting peace agreement that will work?		
		Will	Will not	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		23%	62%	15%
National Registered Voters		22%	63%	15%
Party Identification^	Democrat	28%	53%	19%
	Republican	16%	71%	13%
	Independent	21%	66%	12%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	32%	53%	15%
	Soft Democrats	24%	60%	16%
	Just Independents	20%	59%	21%
	Soft Republicans	17%	73%	10%
	Strong Republicans	16%	69%	15%
Tea Party Supporters^		18%	64%	17%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	28%	65%	8%
	Moderate	24%	60%	15%
	Conservative-Very conservative	18%	66%	16%
Region	Northeast	23%	57%	20%
	Midwest	15%	71%	14%
	South	27%	57%	16%
	West	24%	65%	11%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	27%	59%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	22%	66%	12%
Education	Not college graduate	22%	61%	17%
	College graduate	25%	63%	12%
Race	White	20%	67%	13%
	African American	35%	45%	19%
	Latino	25%	58%	17%
Age	18 to 29	28%	50%	22%
	30 to 44	31%	60%	10%
	45 to 59	18%	65%	17%
	60 or older	17%	72%	11%
Age	Under 45	29%	55%	16%
	45 or older	18%	68%	14%
Gender	Men	25%	61%	14%
	Women	21%	62%	16%
Interview Type	Landline	18%	68%	14%
	Cell phone	28%	55%	17%

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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.

## NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		Do you believe Congress has been very productive, somewhat productive, somewhat unproductive, or very unproductive this year?				
		Very productive	Somewhat productive	Somewhat unproductive	Very unproductive	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		3%	20%	25%	47%	5%
National Registered Voters		3%	19%	24%	50%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	3%	21%	18%	53%	6%
	Republican	2%	22%	29%	44%	3%
	Independent	3%	17%	25%	52%	3%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	2%	18%	16%	60%	4%
	Soft Democrats	3%	20%	26%	45%	6%
	Just Independents	0%	25%	18%	51%	7%
	Soft Republicans	4%	16%	28%	51%	2%
	Strong Republicans	3%	21%	30%	44%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		2%	26%	21%	47%	4%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	5%	16%	12%	64%	3%
	Moderate	2%	15%	30%	50%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	2%	22%	25%	46%	5%
Region	Northeast	2%	21%	32%	39%	7%
	Midwest	4%	19%	21%	51%	5%
	South	4%	22%	22%	47%	5%
	West	2%	18%	27%	49%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	4%	26%	24%	40%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	2%	17%	26%	53%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	4%	23%	24%	43%	6%
	College graduate	3%	16%	25%	54%	3%
Race	White	2%	16%	26%	52%	5%
	African American	6%	36%	19%	37%	2%
	Latino	7%	26%	27%	32%	7%
Age	18 to 29	4%	32%	38%	20%	7%
	30 to 44	2%	22%	23%	47%	6%
	45 to 59	4%	14%	20%	59%	3%
	60 or older	2%	16%	19%	59%	4%
Age	Under 45	3%	27%	30%	33%	6%
	45 or older	3%	15%	19%	59%	4%
Gender	Men	5%	21%	24%	45%	5%
	Women	2%	19%	26%	48%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	3%	16%	24%	55%	2%
	Cell phone	4%	24%	26%	38%	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.



## NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you want to see the Congressional Republicans stay in the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, or do you want to see the Congressional Democrats in the majority?		
		Congressional Republicans in the majority	Congressional Democrats in the majority	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		41%	42%	17%
National Registered Voters		43%	41%	16%
Party Identification^	Democrat	5%	85%	10%
	Republican	92%	4%	4%
	Independent	38%	34%	28%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	0%	97%	3%
	Soft Democrats	9%	68%	23%
	Just Independents	22%	24%	54%
	Soft Republicans	83%	7%	10%
	Strong Republicans	94%	4%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		72%	17%	11%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	12%	78%	11%
	Moderate	34%	43%	24%
	Conservative-Very conservative	66%	22%	11%
Region	Northeast	44%	41%	15%
	Midwest	42%	43%	15%
	South	39%	44%	17%
	West	43%	37%	20%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	40%	45%	15%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	41%	16%
Education	Not college graduate	41%	40%	19%
	College graduate	42%	44%	14%
Race	White	52%	33%	15%
	African American	3%	81%	15%
	Latino	34%	43%	22%
Age	18 to 29	31%	50%	19%
	30 to 44	44%	38%	18%
	45 to 59	43%	40%	17%
	60 or older	45%	41%	15%
Age	Under 45	38%	44%	18%
	45 or older	44%	40%	16%
Gender	Men	42%	37%	21%
	Women	41%	46%	13%
Interview Type	Landline	46%	40%	14%
	Cell phone	37%	43%	20%

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## NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you want to see the Senate Democrats stay in the majority in the U.S. Senate, or do you want to see the Senate Republicans in the majority?		
		Senate Democrats in the majority	Senate Republicans in the majority	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		43%	42%	15%
National Registered Voters		41%	43%	15%
Party Identification^	Democrat	83%	6%	11%
	Republican	2%	94%	3%
	Independent	38%	38%	24%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	96%	1%	3%
	Soft Democrats	70%	9%	21%
	Just Independents	21%	25%	53%
	Soft Republicans	11%	83%	6%
	Strong Republicans	1%	96%	3%
Tea Party Supporters^	13%	75%	12%	
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	81%	11%	8%
	Moderate	43%	33%	24%
	Conservative-Very conservative	21%	69%	10%
Region	Northeast	42%	45%	13%
	Midwest	47%	42%	11%
	South	40%	41%	19%
	West	43%	41%	16%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	43%	42%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	42%	14%
Education	Not college graduate	41%	42%	17%
	College graduate	46%	42%	13%
Race	White	35%	52%	13%
	African American	77%	6%	16%
	Latino	50%	32%	18%
Age	18 to 29	49%	31%	19%
	30 to 44	35%	51%	15%
	45 to 59	46%	38%	16%
	60 or older	40%	46%	14%
Age	Under 45	42%	41%	17%
	45 or older	43%	42%	15%
Gender	Men	41%	41%	18%
	Women	44%	43%	13%
Interview Type	Landline	41%	45%	14%
	Cell phone	44%	38%	17%

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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.