

## MEMORANDUM

To: House Majority Leader Eric Cantor  
 From: John McLaughlin  
 Re: National Survey Results  
 Date: January 26, 2011

### Methodology:

*McLaughlin & Associates conducted a national survey of 1,000 likely voters on January 11-12, 2011. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Respondents were randomly selected within predetermined geographic units structured to correlate with actual voter turnout. The survey of 1,000 likely voters has an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval.*

### Major Findings:

**1. Although President Obama has improved his ratings, he still has significant negatives. Republicans have an advantage over Democrats for U.S. Congress, but many voters are once again undecided in their future choice for Congress in 2012.**

Overall, the majority of voters (52%) has a favorable opinion of President Obama, while 42% have an unfavorable opinion of him. However, the majority of voters (58%) gives Obama a negative job rating, while 41% give him a positive rating. Only 44% of voters say Obama has performed his job well enough to deserve re-election, while half of voters (50%) say it is time to give a new person a chance.

*Now, I am going to read you a list of names. Will you please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person? If you have no opinion or have never heard of the person, just say so.*  
 "Barack Obama"

	Total	Party			Generic Vote for Congress		
		Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Favorable	52	14	89	53	13	95	53
Unfavorable	42	81	9	39	83	4	35

	11/10	9/10	4/10	9/09	5/09	1/09
Favorable	46	47	50	52	63	71
Unfavorable	51	49	46	43	30	14



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Overall, how would you rate the job that Barack Obama is doing as President, would you say he is doing an excellent, good, fair or poor job?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
<b>Positive</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>38</b>
Excellent	13	1	26	11	2	28	9
Good	29	7	50	29	5	54	28
<b>Negative</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>61</b>
Fair	27	35	16	31	34	14	35
Poor	30	56	7	29	58	3	26

	11/10	9/10	4/10	1/10	9/09	5/09
Positive	45	34	48	52	50	62
Negative	53	65	49	45	46	34

In the next election for President, do you feel that Barack Obama has performed his job well enough to deserve re-election, or do you think it is time to give a new person a chance?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.	11/10	9/10	4/10
Re-Elect	44	8	81	40	8	86	39	37	38	40
New Person	50	89	15	49	90	10	47	54	58	52

On the generic ballot for U.S. Congress in 2012, the Republican candidate has a four point advantage over the Democrat candidate (39% to 35%). Independents favor the Republican candidate 27% to 17%, while the majority (56%) is undecided. By a margin of 53% to 36%, voters prefer a Republican congressman who will be a check and balance to Barack Obama over a Democratic congressman who will help Obama pass his agenda.

If the election for U.S. Congress in your district were held today, would you be more likely to vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	9/10	4/10	1/10	9/09	5/09	1/09
Republican	39	82	7	27	51	44	42	40	34	31
Democrat	35	4	81	17	37	38	37	38	38	42
Undecided	26	14	12	56	13	18	21	22	28	27

Since Barack Obama is President, who would you prefer to represent you in Congress?

A Democratic congressman who will help Barack Obama pass his agenda. **OR,**

A Republican congressman who will be a check and balance to Barack Obama.

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.	9/10	4/10	9/09	1/09
Democrat	36	5	75	24	3	80	27	36	38	39	47
Republican	53	91	17	57	95	14	46	57	55	50	40

The majority of voters (55%) has an unfavorable opinion of Nancy Pelosi, while only 32% have a favorable opinion of her. In comparison, 35% of voters approve of the job Republicans are doing as they assume the new majority in the House of Representatives, while 33% disapprove. This is a significant improvement since 2010. It shows that Republicans have an opportunity to become net positive to the voters again.

Now, I am going to read you a list of names. Will you please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person? If you have no opinion or have never heard of the person, just say so.  
*"Nancy Pelosi"*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Favorable	32	8	58	28	6	64	28
Unfavorable	55	84	25	61	88	21	51

	11/10	9/10	4/10	9/09	1/09
Favorable	29	32	30	30	34
Unfavorable	61	54	57	53	39

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republicans are doing as they assume the new majority in the House of Representatives this year?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.	9/10	4/10
Approve	35	58	18	31	60	15	26	34	34
Disapprove	33	11	56	29	11	60	28	61	60

Three in four voters (75%) agree that America is at a critical crossroads and if the policies and changes from Washington are not stopped, our children and grandchildren will not enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities. This is the highest level at which we have polled agreement on this question.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *"America is at a critical crossroads. If the policies and changes being forced on us from Washington are not stopped our children and grandchildren will not enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities that previous generations of Americans have enjoyed."*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.	11/10	9/10
Agree	75	92	61	69	93	56	74	67	68
Disagree	20	5	32	24	5	37	19	26	30

## **2. Economic issues, particularly those related to creating jobs and reducing unemployment, remain the top concern for voters.**

The majority of voters (56%) says economic issues are most important in deciding their vote for U.S. Congress. More specifically, voters say improving the economy and creating jobs (39%) is most important.

*Which one of the following issues is most important to you when deciding your vote for Congress?*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.	9/10	4/10
<b>ECONOMIC</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>
Improving the economy and creating jobs	39	37	42	39	41	43	32	40	40
Cutting wasteful government spending to reduce the deficit	14	18	10	14	18	8	18	11	10
Holding the line on taxes	3	5	1	2	5	1	2	3	3
<b>SOCIAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Providing affordable health care	13	10	18	12	7	21	11	11	9
Improving education	7	2	12	6	2	13	6	5	6
Fixing our immigration system	3	4	1	2	3	1	3	2	4
Protecting the environment	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
<b>MORAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
Restoring honesty and integrity to the federal government	11	11	10	16	12	8	15	16	17
Protecting traditional family values	3	4	1	3	5	1	2	2	3
Strengthening our national defense and anti-terror policies	3	4	1	2	4	1	3	2	2
DK/Refused	4	4	3	4	3	2	8	7	4

Voters rank cutting spending to reduce the deficit (mean 7.93), securing the borders and fixing the broken immigration system (mean 7.50) and cutting taxes on small businesses to create jobs (mean 7.12) as the top priorities for Congress. In order to create jobs, the majority of voters says that cutting taxes on small businesses (55%) and reducing regulations on small businesses (51%) are very important priorities for Congress. Two-thirds of voters (66%) say cutting spending to reduce the deficit is a very important priority for Congress. In comparison, only 20% of voters say raising taxes to reduce the deficit is a very important priority.

The majority of voters (52%) says replacing Obamacare with a bill that focuses on lowering health care costs and giving individuals more personal control of their health care is a very important priority for Congress. A plurality of voters (45%) says repealing Obamacare is a very important priority.

Please rank the importance of each of the following issue priorities for Congress on a scale of zero to ten where ten is “extremely important” and zero is “not important at all”. You may use any number between zero and ten.

	<b>Total Mean 0-10</b>	<b>Total Very Impt. 8-10</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Vote Rep.</b>	<b>Vote Dem.</b>	<b>Und.</b>
Cutting spending to reduce the deficit.	7.93	66	81	56	62	82	51	63
Securing the borders and fixing the broken immigration system.	7.50	59	75	48	55	73	45	56
Cutting taxes on small businesses to create jobs.	7.12	55	65	49	52	65	47	53
Cutting regulations on small businesses to create jobs.	6.94	51	64	43	44	65	39	46
Replacing Obamacare with a bill that focuses on lowering health care costs and giving individuals more personal control of their health care.	6.42	52	78	31	45	75	27	51
Repealing Obamacare.	5.80	45	72	20	44	74	17	40
Raising taxes to reduce the deficit.	4.15	20	14	25	20	14	28	17

More specifically on the issue of creating jobs, 78% of voters approve of giving every small business that employs fewer than 500 people a 20% federal tax cut to help small businesses retain and create new jobs.

Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of each of the following proposals.

<b>Approve/Disapprove</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Vote Rep.</b>	<b>Vote Dem.</b>	<b>Und.</b>	<b>4/10</b>
Giving every small business that employs fewer than 500 people a 20% federal tax cut to help small businesses retain and create new jobs.	78/14	80/10	76/18	79/16	85/9	74/20	75/16	80/14

The majority of voters (57%) says that 18 months or less is long enough to receive unemployment benefits. The majority of voters (54%) agrees that extending unemployment benefits should be tied to job retraining, while only 34% say extending benefits is part of an important safety net that protects workers for as long as necessary to find a new job.

*Regarding the issue of extending unemployment benefits, how long do you think is a reasonable amount of time for an unemployed worker to receive unemployment benefits - 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, 36 months, or for as long as it takes for that worker to find a new job?*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
6 Months	19	26	13	22	29	11	17
12 Months	26	33	22	23	32	22	23
18 Months	12	11	13	11	11	12	13
24 Months	12	8	16	12	9	16	12
30 Months	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
36 Months	4	3	4	3	3	3	5
As Long As It Takes	18	10	25	19	10	26	20

*Regarding the issue of unemployment reform, which opinion do you agree with more?*

*Extending unemployment benefits should be tied to job retraining and that extending benefits without strict retraining and job seeking incentives creates a new entitlement that encourages unemployed workers not to look for a new job. **OR***

*Extending unemployment benefits is part of an important safety net that protects workers for as long as necessary to find a new job.*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Job Retraining	54	67	44	56	66	44	50
Safety Net	34	22	44	34	22	45	40

### **3. Voters favor cutting federal government spending to create jobs and reduce the deficit.**

Nearly seven in ten voters (69%) agree that cutting federal government spending and regulations will help the private sector grow the economy, create jobs and reduce unemployment.

*Do you agree or disagree that cutting federal government spending and regulations will help the private sector grow the economy, create jobs and reduce unemployment?*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Agree	69	86	55	68	88	50	67
Disagree	21	8	31	23	7	36	19

Seven in ten voters approve of several measures to reduce government spending, including reducing federal employee pay and benefits (73%), imposing a hard cap on discretionary spending by Congress (71%) and imposing a net hiring freeze for federal government employees (70%). However, the majority of voters disapproves of cutting federal spending across the board by 5% including Social Security (60%) and raising the retirement age to receive Social Security from 67 to 70 years old (59%).



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*Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of each of the following proposals.*

<b>Approve/Disapprove</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Vote Rep.</b>	<b>Vote Dem.</b>	<b>Und.</b>	<b>9/10</b>
Reducing federal employee pay and benefits to bring them in line with the private sector.	73/19	78/14	68/22	74/18	77/15	67/24	76/15	--
Imposing a hard cap on discretionary spending by Congress that would save taxpayers more than \$340 billion.	71/13	81/8	62/17	72/15	87/5	60/23	60/15	83/9
Stopping the expansion of the federal bureaucracy by imposing a net hiring freeze for federal government employees, excluding combat troops.	70/19	77/11	62/28	72/17	78/11	60/29	72/16	--
To get control of government spending and reduce the deficit, cutting federal spending across the board by 5% excluding Social Security. This would mean across the board cuts in spending programs such as health care, education, veterans and other popular programs.	45/46	62/31	30/58	43/50	61/32	30/57	39/53	45/48
Cutting federal spending by 5% across the board including Social Security.	34/60	49/44	18/77	36/59	52/42	18/75	31/67	34/63
Raising the retirement age to receive Social Security from 67 years old in the year 2026 to 70 years old.	32/59	38/53	24/67	40/54	41/51	26/64	27/64	--

Six in ten voters (63%) approve of reducing non-defense spending to 2008 levels to the level the federal government spent before Barack Obama became President. The majority of voters (59%) says that significant savings and spending reductions can be achieved without shutting down the government, while 30% say the new Congress should be prepared to shut down the government if President Obama won't go along with significant spending cuts.

*Do you approve or disapprove of reducing non-defense federal spending to 2008 levels which over the course of a year would cut the federal budget by nearly \$100 billion to the level the federal government spent before Barack Obama became President?*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Ind.</b>	<b>Vote Rep.</b>	<b>Vote Dem.</b>	<b>Und.</b>
Approve	63	79	50	60	81	48	56
Disapprove	21	11	30	23	12	33	18



Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion? (**READ & ROTATE CHOICES**) (**SOME/OTHER**) people say that government spending is completely out of control, the new Congress should be prepared to shut down the government if President Obama won't go along with significant spending cuts. This temporary pain will be worth the long term benefit of reducing spending. **OR,** (**OTHER/SOME**) people say that we can achieve significant savings and spending reductions, without shutting down government. A government shutdown would mean Social Security checks and unemployment checks would not be sent out on time and the pain to seniors and the unemployed would be too great to shut down government.

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Shut Down	30	40	22	26	39	21	26
Not Shut Down	59	47	67	62	47	70	61

The majority of voters (51%) favors raising the debt ceiling only if it is tied to spending caps and significant cuts in federal spending. Another 27% of voters say Congress should not raise the debt ceiling, while only 9% say Congress should raise the ceiling and continue borrowing as they are now. Only a third of voters (33%) agree that if Congress were not to raise the debt ceiling in March, it will cause a worldwide economic catastrophe.

Currently the federal government is borrowing nearly 40 cents on every dollar it spends. In order to finance that debt Congress will have to vote in April to raise the national debt ceiling by as much as \$1 trillion above the current \$14.3 trillion limit. Regarding this issue which position do you favor most?

- Congress should NOT raise the debt ceiling.
- Congress should raise the debt ceiling but only if it is tied to spending caps and significant cuts in federal spending that will put the country on a path to eliminating the deficit in a few years.
- Congress should raise the debt ceiling and continue borrowing as they are now until the economy gets better.

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Not Raise	27	33	20	29	33	20	28
Raise/Spending Caps	51	54	52	48	53	50	50
Raise/Borrow	9	4	13	12	5	14	8

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "If Congress were NOT to raise the debt ceiling for the United States in March, it will cause a worldwide economic catastrophe."

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Agree	33	28	37	38	30	37	33
Disagree	40	48	34	39	48	33	36

#### 4. In place of Obamacare, voters prefer more modest and incremental reforms to reduce health care costs.

Regarding the health care law passed by Congress, 59% of voters say Congress should repeal and replace it with a bill that focuses on lowering health care costs by taking a few modest steps, while only 24% prefer the current law.



*Regarding the health care law passed by Congress, should Congress repeal it and replace it with a bill that focuses on lowering health care costs by taking a few modest steps like allowing the purchase of insurance across state lines to improve competition, ensure that individuals with pre-existing conditions have access to affordable insurance, and curbing lawsuits against doctors, would you prefer that alternative bill or the law which Congress recently passed?*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.	4/10
Alternative Bill	59	81	36	59	84	34	55	60
Law As Is	24	7	43	20	7	47	17	26

Assuming the Republicans in Congress vote to repeal the Democratic health care plan, 74% of voters say Congress should address health care with incremental reforms focusing on availability, affordability and quality of health care. Only 15% of voters say that Congress should do nothing. The majority of voters (55%) says health care reforms that give patients more control over their health care and reduce government control, regulations and mandates are more important than providing health care for everyone (38%).

*Assuming the Republicans in Congress vote to repeal the Democratic health care plan, which approach would you support following that action?*

*Congress should do nothing about health care because the government will make it worse. **OR,** Congress should address health care with incremental reforms, focusing on availability, affordability and quality of health care.*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Do Nothing	15	21	11	10	18	13	14
Incremental Reforms	74	73	75	76	77	75	70

*Regarding the issue of health care, which do you think is more important?*

*Any new health care reforms give patients more control over their own health care and reduce government control, regulations and mandates, **OR,***

*Providing health care for everyone, even it means that there are more government regulations and control of your health care choices.*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
More Control	55	78	33	54	79	29	54
For Everyone	38	17	59	35	15	65	34

## 5. On the issue of education, voters favor more local control of public schools.

Six in ten voters (63%) prefer decreasing federal regulations and allowing the states and local public schools to develop their own policies to improve education with fewer mandates from Washington, while only 25% prefer increasing federal funding and regulations.

*Regarding the solution to improving education in our schools, which policy would you prefer?  
Increasing Federal funding and regulations of our public schools to mandate national policies to improve education.*

*Decreasing Federal regulations and allowing the states and local public schools to develop their own policies to improve educations with fewer mandates from Washington.*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Increase	25	14	37	21	14	39	21
Decrease	63	76	47	70	78	45	64

## 6. Voters do not support granting amnesty or providing taxpayer funded benefits to illegal immigrants.

A plurality of voters (35%) says illegal aliens should not receive taxpayer funded benefits and should be detained and deported. Another 31% says illegal aliens should be allowed to live and work here only if they register as guest workers, while 26% say illegal aliens who have already lived and worked in the United States should pay a fine and be given a path to citizenship. The majority of voters (54%) opposes the Dream Act which will allow people in the country illegally to attain citizenship by joining the military or attending college.

*Regarding immigration reform, which comes closest to your own personal opinion?*

- *Undocumented immigrants who have already lived and worked in the United States as illegal aliens, should pay a fine and be given a path to citizenship.*
- *Illegal aliens should be allowed to live and work here only if they register as guest workers, but **NOT** be given amnesty and citizenship.*
- *Illegal aliens should not receive any taxpayer funded benefits and should be detained and deported.*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Citizenship	26	16	37	27	17	36	25
Guest Workers	31	30	34	29	32	31	28
Detain/Deport	35	45	24	34	44	25	34

*Do you favor or oppose the recently proposed "Dream Act" which will allow people in the country illegally to attain citizenship by joining the military or attending college for four years?*

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Vote Rep.	Vote Dem.	Und.
Favor	35	24	44	39	24	49	33
Oppose	54	68	43	52	69	39	53

**Demographics:**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Total</b>
East	19	Protestant	58
Midwest	25	Catholic	23
South	37	Jewish	1
West	19	<b>Abortion</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Community Type</b>	<b>%</b>	Pro-life	47
Urban	21	Pro-choice	45
Suburban	42	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>%</b>
Rural	35	Single	13
<b>Party</b>	<b>%</b>	Married	61
Republican	35	Separated	2
Democrat	37	Divorced	10
Independent	22	Widowed	13
<b>Ideology</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>%</b>
Liberal	21	Some High School	4
Moderate	32	High School Grad	24
Conservative	42	Some College	26
<b>Race</b>	<b>%</b>	College Grad	29
White	75	Post Graduate	16
African American	10	<b>Income</b>	<b>%</b>
Hispanic	9	Under \$20,000	12
<b>Age</b>	<b>%</b>	\$20,000-\$40,000	19
18-25	2	\$40,001-\$60,000	18
26-40	12	\$60,001-\$100,000	17
41-55	26	Over \$100,000	12
56-65	25	<b>Union Household</b>	<b>%</b>
Over 65	31	Yes	17
<b>Gender</b>	<b>%</b>	No	80
Male	48	<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>%</b>
Female	52	Private	53
<b>Insurance Coverage</b>	<b>%</b>	Medicare	27
Satisfied	91	Medicaid	3
Not Satisfied	7	Other Government	7
		None	8