First Focus
Survey Results
High Wrong Track Continues

Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

- Right Direction
- Wrong Track


Democracy Corps, Likely Voters, 06/18-21/11
I know it’s a long way off, but thinking about the elections for Congress in 2012, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for DEMOCRATIC HOUSE CANDIDATE or REPUBLICAN HOUSE CANDIDATE?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Independents</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Voters</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>6</td>
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* In the landline sample, the incumbent names were inserted preceded by party identification. Generic “the Democratic candidate” or “the Republican candidate” were inserted for the opposition. For the cell phone sample and open seat districts, both candidates were given as generic.
As you may have heard, in August the federal government will reach its debt limit. Unless Congress raises the amount of money the government can borrow, the government will not be able to borrow more to fund its operations and pay its debts. Currently, Congress is considering whether to raise the debt ceiling. Do you think Congress should or should not raise the debt ceiling?

**Voters Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling**

As you may have heard, in August the federal government will reach its debt limit. Unless Congress raises the amount of money the government can borrow, the government will not be able to borrow more to fund its operations and pay its debts. Currently, Congress is considering whether to raise the debt ceiling. Do you think Congress should or should not raise the debt ceiling?

![Bar Graph](https://example.com/bar-graph.png)

- **All Voters**: 59% should, 32% should not
- **Democrats**: 52% should, 29% should not
- **Independents**: 52% should, 29% should not
- **Republicans**: 81% should, 14% should not
Most See Budget as Problem as a Crisis

From what you have heard or seen, would you say the federal government's budget deficit is a crisis, a major problem but not a crisis, is a minor problem or is not a problem at all?

- Crisis/major problem: 92
- Minor problem: 54
- Not at all a problem: 7
But Also See State of Children as a Crisis

Thinking about the last ten years, would you say that the lives of children in America have gotten better, gotten worse or no change?

- 58% responded "Worse"
- 20% responded "Better"
- 17% responded "No change"
When it comes to dealing with the federal government deficit, which approach would you prefer: raising taxes or cutting important programs?*

When it comes to dealing with the federal government deficit, which approach would you prefer: raising taxes on those earning over one million dollars a year or cutting important programs?*

*Asked of only half the respondents
Voters Mostly Split Between Corporate Responsibility and Government Responsibility for Deficit

Now I’m going to read you some pairs of statements. Please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

First statement: The bigger problem with the federal deficit is that too many of the rich and big corporations use tax loopholes to avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

Second statement: The bigger problem with the federal deficit is that the government spends too much.

First statement: 49
Second statement: 41

First statement strong: 41
First statement weak: 40
Second statement strong: 40
Second statement weak: 35
Children’s Issues Hold Up Well Relative to Other Potential Cuts

I am going to read you a list of different programs that might be affected by efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit. After each one I read, please tell me whether you would support no reductions in this program, whether you would support minor reductions in the program or support major reductions in the program.

- K-12 education: 61% support no reductions
- Federal Child Nutrition Programs: 54% support no reductions
- Children’s Health Insurance Program: 51% support no reductions
- Medicaid: 49% support no reductions
- Medicare: 49% support no reductions
- Head start: 48% support no reductions
- Student loans: 43% support no reductions
- Unemployment insurance: 35% support no reductions
- National defense: 33% support no reductions
- Medical, scientific research: 33% support no reductions
- Job training programs: 28% support no reductions
- Transportation funding: 22% support no reductions
Most Oppose Medicaid Cuts

And one question about a current debate over the MEDICAID program for low income people. Which comes closer to your view?

In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, Congress may decide to reduce federal spending in certain areas. For each area I name, please tell me if you would support major spending reductions, minor spending reductions or no reductions at all as a way to reduce the federal deficit. (Medicaid)

States should be able to cut back on who is eligible for Medicaid in order to deal with budget problems
Low income people should not have their Medicaid benefits taken away
Neither
Other
Don’t Know/Refused

Major reductions
Minor reductions
No reductions
Don’t know/refused

Pew, Adults 18+, 06/15-19/11; Kaiser, Adults 18+, 05/12-17/11
The House budget proposal cuts over $750 billion from funding for Medicaid, a federal health program that provides care to low-income children, the elderly and the disabled. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose this cut in Medicaid.

Voters Strongly Oppose Cutting Medicaid

- Strongly favor: 27
- Somewhat favor: 14
- Strongly oppose: 48
- Somewhat oppose: 70

GQR First Focus, Likely Voters, 4/13-4/18/11
The House budget proposal cuts spending for the Children’s Health Insurance Program, a federal health program for low-income children whose families do not qualify for Medicaid. The budget proposal creates a $150 billion shortfall and could threaten the health care coverage for more than 7 million children. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose this cut in the Children’s Health Insurance Program?
Most states are facing fiscal challenges and a number of governors have called for the need to have more flexibility to decide how Medicaid dollars are spent in the states. Medicaid is a federal health program that provides care to low-income children, the elderly and the disabled. Would you favor or oppose allowing governors this flexibility if it meant eliminating insurance coverage for some children?
Would Rather Reduce the Deficit Other Ways

I am going to read you a list of additional proposals that some people have made that will impact the federal budget deficit. After each one I read, please tell me if you find this proposal totally acceptable, mostly acceptable, mostly unacceptable or totally unacceptable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Totally acceptable</th>
<th>Mostly acceptable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eliminating corporate tax loopholes and federal subsidies to corporations</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminating the Bush tax cuts for families earning over $250,000 a year requiring those families to pay more</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing the size of government by eliminating 10 percent of public-sector jobs over the next 3 years</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending subsidies for oil companies</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacing the current Medicare program with a voucher system</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutting the income tax rate for those earning over $372,000 a year from 35% to 25%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
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</tbody>
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Americans Do Not Want to Repeal the Healthcare Legislation

What would you like to see Congress do when it comes to the health care law?

- They should expand the law/ leave it as is: 51% (May 2011), 47% (January 2011)
- They should repeal the law: 38% (May 2011), 43% (January 2011)
- Don't know/ Refused: 10% (May 2011), 10% (January 2011)
Voters Oppose Repealing Health Care Law

The House budget proposal repeals the health care reform law that was passed last year. This law improved access to health insurance for millions of low-income children and ensures that no child can be denied health care coverage based on a pre-existing condition. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose repealing the health care reform law as part of the effort to reduce the budget deficit.

Voters Oppose Repealing Health Care Law

GQR First Focus, Likely Voters, 4/13-18/11