



GfK Custom Research
North America



THE AP-National Constitution Center Poll

Conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media

Interview dates: September 3 – September 8, 2009

Interviews: 1,001 adults

Margin of error: +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Please refer to the exact sample number at the bottom of each table.

All results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

Trend results in this study are a result of the AP-National Constitution Poll conducted August 22-29, 2008 by Abt SRBI. Any inquiries about that methodology should be addressed with the Associated Press

NCC1. For each of the following tasks, please say if you think the government is doing a good job, a poor job, or a neither a good nor poor job at that particular one. How about...

[INTERVIEWER:]

FOR EACH "GOOD JOB," ASK: Is that a VERY good job or SOMEWHAT good job?

FOR EACH "POOR JOB," ASK: Is that a VERY poor job or SOMEWHAT poor job?

Making America a better place	9/3/09- 9/8/09	8/22/08- 8/29/08
Total Good job	43	40
Very good	14	13
Somewhat good	29	27
Neither good nor bad	14	15
Total Poor job	42	43
Somewhat poor job	20	19
Very poor job	22	24
Don't know	1	1
Refused	-	1

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

Making sure that all people are treated equally	9/3/09- 9/8/09	8/22/08- 8/29/08
Total Good job	48	47
Very good	18	16
Somewhat good	31	31
Neither good nor bad	12	9
Total Poor job	38	44
Somewhat poor job	19	19
Very poor job	20	25
Don't know	1	1
Refused	*	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

Continues...

NCC1. (Continued) For each of the following tasks, please say if you think the government is doing a good job, a poor job, or a neither a good nor poor job at that particular one. How about...

[INTERVIEWER:]

FOR EACH "GOOD JOB," ASK: Is that a VERY good job or SOMEWHAT good job?

FOR EACH "POOR JOB," ASK: Is that a VERY poor job or SOMEWHAT poor job?

Making sure that our nation is safe from foreign and domestic threats	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
Total Good job	58	62
Very good	21	29
Somewhat good	37	33
Neither good nor bad	9	8
Total Poor job	33	29
Somewhat poor job	15	14
Very poor job	18	15
Don't know	1	2
Refused	-	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

Making sure all Americans feel safe, secure and free	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
Total Good job	53	58
Very good	19	24
Somewhat good	35	34
Neither good nor bad	10	9
Total Poor job	37	32
Somewhat poor job	18	15
Very poor job	19	16
Don't know	*	1
Refused	-	1

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

Continues...

NCC1. (Continued) For each of the following tasks, please say if you think the government is doing a good job, a poor job, or a neither a good nor poor job at that particular one. How about...

[INTERVIEWER:]

FOR EACH "GOOD JOB," ASK: Is that a VERY good job or SOMEWHAT good job?

FOR EACH "POOR JOB," ASK: Is that a VERY poor job or SOMEWHAT poor job?

Promoting the well-being of all Americans, not just special interests	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
Total Good job	38	38
Very good	11	11
Somewhat good	27	27
Neither good nor bad	12	12
Total Poor job	49	49
Somewhat poor job	22	22
Very poor job	26	27
Don't know	2	2
Refused	-	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

Making sure that Americans are free to pursue happiness now and in the future	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
Total Good job	46	55
Very good	18	20
Somewhat good	28	35
Neither good nor bad	13	9
Total Poor job	40	34
Somewhat poor job	18	17
Very poor job	22	17
Don't know	1	1
Refused	*	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

I'm going to read you some pairs of statements, and for each pair, please tell me which one comes closest to your view. (DO NOT RANDOMIZE NCC2-NCC4)

NCC2. How about these statements...Which comes closest to your view?

	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
The United States Constitution is an enduring document that remains relevant today	75	70
The United States Constitution is an outdated document that needs to be modernized	23	28
Don't know	2	3
Refused	-	*
<i>Based on:</i>	<i>N=1,001</i>	<i>N=1,000</i>

NCC3. And which of these comes closest to your view?

	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
The rule of law should be followed in America, even if that comes at the expense of short term public safety considerations OR	61	54
If it's a matter of public safety, sometimes it's okay to break the law	35	38
Don't know	3	7
Refused	1	1
<i>Based on:</i>	<i>N=1,001</i>	<i>N=1,000</i>

NCC4. And how about these, which do you agree with more?

	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
If a majority of people want something to happen, the rights of a few shouldn't stand in the way; OR	37	33
The rights of everyone should be protected, even when that means saying no to something the majority of people want to happen.	57	62
Don't know	5	5
Refused	1	*
<i>Based on:</i>	<i>N=1,001</i>	<i>N=1,000</i>

NCC5. If you thought it would help improve the economy would you favor or oppose giving the President more power at the expense of the power of Congress and the courts?

[INTERVIEWER:

FOR EACH "FAVOR," ASK: Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor?

FOR EACH "OPPOSE" ASK: Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?]

	9/3/09- 9/8/09	8/22/08- 8/29/08
Total Favor	24	29
Strongly favor	10	16
Somewhat favor	14	13
Total Oppose	75	66
Somewhat oppose	17	22
Strongly oppose	58	44
Don't know	1	5
Refused	*	*

Based on:

N=1,001 N=1,000

NCC6. Do you favor or oppose the Federal government taking partial ownership of private companies to prevent them from going out of business?

[INTERVIEWER:

FOR EACH "FAVOR," ASK: Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor?

FOR EACH "OPPOSE" ASK: Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?]

	9/3/09- 9/8/09
Total Favor	27
Strongly favor	9
Somewhat favor	18
Total Oppose	71
Somewhat oppose	21
Strongly oppose	50
Don't know	2
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC6a. How about if the failure of the company would seriously harm the economy, would you favor or oppose the Federal government taking partial ownership of private companies to prevent them from going out of business?

[INTERVIEWER:

FOR EACH "FAVOR," ASK: Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor?

FOR EACH "OPPOSE" ASK: Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?]

	9/3/09- 9/8/09
Total Favor	38
Strongly favor	13
Somewhat favor	25
Total Oppose	60
Somewhat oppose	22
Strongly oppose	38
Don't know	2
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC6b. How about if the failure of the company would cost jobs? Would you favor or oppose the Federal government taking partial ownership of private companies to prevent them from going out of business?

[INTERVIEWER:

FOR EACH "FAVOR," ASK: Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor?

FOR EACH "OPPOSE" ASK: Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?]

	9/3/09- 9/8/09
Total Favor	32
Strongly favor	11
Somewhat favor	21
Total Oppose	66
Somewhat oppose	24
Strongly oppose	42
Don't know	2
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC7. Is health care insurance something that the government should make sure everyone has, or should it be up to each individual to secure health insurance if he or she wants it?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Yes, the government should assure that everyone has health care insurance	47
No, it is up to each individual to secure health insurance if he or she wants it	50
Don't know	3
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC8. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

[INTERVIEWER:

FOR EACH "FAVOR," ASK: Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor?

FOR EACH "OPPOSE" ASK: Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?]

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Total Favor	47
Strongly favor	21
Somewhat favor	26
Total Oppose	50
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	38
Don't know	2
Refused	1
<i>Based on:</i>	<i>N=1,001</i>

NCC9. Do you think freedom of speech should mean that...

	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
People should have the right to say what they believe even if they take positions that seem deeply offensive to most people OR	76	67
People should have the right to say what they believe, except when they want to say things that seem deeply offensive to most people	21	30
Don't know	3	3
Refused	1	1

Based on: N=1,001 N=1,000

NCC10. Should couples of the same sex be entitled to the same government benefits as married couples of the opposite sex, or should the government distinguish between them?

	9/3/09-9/8/09	8/22/08-8/29/08
Yes, should be entitled to the same benefits	54	51
No, should distinguish between them	42	43
Don't know	4	4
Refused	1	1

Based on: N=1,001 N=1,000

NCC11. Should state governments give legal recognition to marriages between couples of the same sex?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Yes	46
No	52
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Based on: N=1,001

NCC12. Should the Federal government give legal recognition to marriages between couples of

the same sex?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Yes	46
No	53
Don't know	1
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC13. Do you think it is necessary today to have laws to make sure that racial minorities are allowed to vote, or do you think such laws are no longer needed?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Yes, still necessary	41
No, no longer needed	56
Don't know	3
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC14. Which comes closes to your view?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
The important thing for hiring and promotion policies is to treat all individuals equally, even if that results in less diversity in the workplace. OR	65
It's okay to give preferences to certain people if necessary to make the workplace more diverse, as long as the person hired can still do the job well	33
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC15. Do you think that laws limiting gun ownership infringe on the public's right to bear arms under the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution, or do you think they do not infringe on the public's right to bear arms?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Infringe on the public's right to bear arms	55
Do not infringe on the public's right to bear arms	40
Don't know	5
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC16. The U.S. government sometimes restricts the access of the public and the news media to various kinds of information for national security reasons. Do you think the government tends to hold back too little information, too much information or the right amount of information from the public?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Too little	19
Too much	43
About the right amount	34
Don't know	4
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

NCC17. Would you favor or oppose appointing someone who isn't a lawyer to the U.S.

Supreme Court?

[INTERVIEWER:

FOR EACH "FAVOR," ASK: Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor?

FOR EACH "OPPOSE" ASK: Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?]

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Total Favor	40
Strongly favor	16
Somewhat favor	24
Total Oppose	58
Somewhat oppose	24
Strongly oppose	34
Don't know	3
Refused	*
<i>Based on:</i>	<i>N=1,001</i>

NCC18. Which comes closest to your view?

	9/3/09-9/8/09
Judges should interpret the laws as narrowly as possible, taking into account only what is clearly the intention of the lawmakers	43
OR	
Judges should interpret laws broadly, taking into account the broader interests of the nation	52
Don't know	5
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

PID1/
PID2.

Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or none of these?

IF "Democrat," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Democrat?

IF "Republican," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Republican?

IF "Independent" OR "None," ASK: Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	9/3/09- 9/8/09	7/16/09- 7/20/09	5/28/09- 6/1/09	4/16/09- 4/20/09	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09	12/03/08- 12/08/08	11/06/08- 11/10/08
Total Democrat	39	44	46	46	46	47	44	48
Democrat – strong	14	14	20	16	18	19	17	21
Democrat – moderate	16	20	15	20	20	18	19	19
Independent – lean Democratic	9	9	11	10	9	9	8	8
None – lean Democratic	-	*	*	*	*	1	1	-
Total Republican	33	33	32	28	30	27	33	34
Republican – strong	9	11	11	9	9	8	13	13
Republican – moderate	11	12	12	9	13	12	13	11
Independent – lean Republican	13	10	9	9	8	7	7	10
None – lean Republican	-	*	*	*	*	1	*	-
[VOL] Independent – don't lean	8	5	5	7	6	7	8	5
[VOL] None – don't lean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
[VOL] Other	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	-
Don't know	19	18	17	19	17	18	15	14
Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,006

N=1,000

N=1,000

N=1,001

N=1,001

N=1,000

N=1,001

EM1. Are you, yourself, currently employed... [READ LIST. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

	9/3/09-9/8/09	7/16/09-7/20/09	5/28/09-6/1/09
Full-time	44	47	50
Part-time	12	13	13
Not employed	42	39	37
[DO NOT READ] Don't know	-	1	*
[DO NOT READ] Refused	1	1	1

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,006* *N=1,000*

EM2. [IF "NOT EMPLOYED" IN EM1, ASK:] Are you... [READ LIST. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

	9/3/09-9/8/09	7/16/09-7/20/09	5/28/09-6/1/09
Retired	52	48	50
Homemaker	15	15	17
Student	8	9	7
Temporarily unemployed	22	24	22
[DO NOT READ] Don't know	2	2	2
[DO NOT READ] Refused	*	2	2

Based on: *N=438* *N=415* *N=402*

CUR38. Thinking of the last 6 months, that is since March of this year, have you or someone in your family lost a job as a result of economic conditions, or not?

	9/3/09-9/8/09	7/16/09-7/20/09	5/28/09-6/1/09	4/16/09-4/20/09	2/12/09-2/17/09
Yes (self lost job)	5	8	7	8	10
Yes (someone in family)	26	21	21	25	25
No	65	65	70	62	65
Both (self and family member) [DO NOT READ]	2	4	1	4	1
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	*	1	1	*	*
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1	1	*	*	-

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,006* *N=1,000* *N=1,000* *N=1,001*

CUR39. And thinking of the last 6 months, that is since March of this year, has someone you know personally, other than a family member, lost a job as a result of economic conditions, or not?

	9/3/09- 9/8/09	7/16/09- 7/20/09	5/28/09- 6/1/09	4/16/09- 4/20/09	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Yes	66	64	60	67	65
No	32	34	39	33	35
Don't know [DO NOT READ]	1	2	1	1	1
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1	1	-	-	-

Based on: N=1,001 N=1,006 N=1,000 N=1,000 N=1,001

The following questions are for classification purposes only. Be assured that your responses will be aggregated with those of other participants to this survey.

DM1. What is your marital status? Are you... [IF SAY "SINGLE," CLARIFY/SPECIFY BELOW:]

Married/Living as Married/Co-Habiting,	61
Separated,	2
Divorced,	11
Widowed, or	6
Never Married?	18
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	2

Based on: N=1,001

DM2. What is the last grade of school you completed?

Less than high school graduate	8
High school graduate	31
Technical/trade school	6
Some college	23
College graduate	17
Some graduate school	3
Graduate degree	10
Don't know	*
Refused	2

Based on: N=1,001

DM4. In what year were you born?

Age group:

18-29	16
30-49	38
50-64	23
65+	19
Refused	4

Based on:

N=1,001

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

Urban area	23
Suburban area	41
Rural area	31
Don't know	3
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM6. Do you currently own your home, rent it, or do you have some other arrangement?

Own	71
Rent	19
Other arrangement	8
Don't know	1
Refused	3

Based on:

N=1,001

DMGN. Are you a gun owner, or not?

Yes	36
No	61
Don't know	*
Refused	3

Based on:

N=1,001

DM8. How many different landline telephone numbers, if any, are there in your home that I could have reached you on for this call? This includes listed or unlisted numbers. To answer this question, please don't count cell phones or landlines used ONLY for faxes or modems.

No lines	18
One Line	76
Two lines	3
Three or more lines	1
Don't know	1
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM9. And on how many different cell-phone numbers, if any, could I have reached you for this call?

None	18
One	62
Two	13
Three or more	4
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Based on:

N=1,001

DM10. [IF BOTH LAND AND CELLPHONE, ASK:] Generally speaking, would you say you use your landline phone most of the time, your cell phone most of the time, or would you say you use both about equally?

Landline	26
Cell phone	39
Both equally	36
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Based on:

N=663

DM10a. [ASK CELL-PHONE SAMPLE ONLY] How many adults, in addition to you, carry and use this cell phone at least once a week or more?

None	59
One	30
Two	5
Three or more	5
Don't know	1
Refused	*

Based on:

N=200

DM12. Do you consider yourself a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes, born-again/evangelical	41
No	54
Don't know	2
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM13. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or don't you belong to any religious denomination?

Protestant	31
Catholic	19
Mormon	2
Jewish	2
Muslim	*
Other religion [SPECIFY]	19
Don't belong to religious denomination	24
Don't know	*
Refused	3

Based on:

N=1,001

DM14. [IF "OTHER RELIGION" IN DM13, ASK:] Do you consider yourself a Christian, or not?

Yes, a Christian	87
No, not a Christian	13
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Based on:

N=151

DM15. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? Would you say more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, less often than a few times a year, or never?

Never	15
Less often than a few times a year	12
A few times a year	20
Once or twice a month	15
Once a week	24
More than once a week	12
Don't know	*
Refused	3

Based on:

N=1,001

DM16. [ASK EVERYONE] Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

Yes	10
No	88
Don't know	*
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM17. [IF SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO [D16=1], ASK:] In addition to being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino, what race or races do you consider yourself to be? [DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

DM18. [IF NOT SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO [D16=2], ASK:] What race or races do you consider yourself to be? [DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

White	79
Black, African-American, or Negro	11
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian Indian	1
Native Hawaiian	-
Chinese	*
Guamanian or Chamorro	-
Filipino	*
Samoan	-
Japanese	-
Korean	*
Vietnamese	-
Other Asian	*
Other Pacific Islander	-
Some other race [SPECIFY]	4
Multiple races [DO NOT READ]	1
Don't know	1
Refused	3

Based on:

N=1,001

DM19. Does your total household [IF SINGLE: "PERSONAL"] income fall below \$50,000 dollars, or is it \$50,000 or higher? [READ LIST]

Below \$50,000	41
\$50,000+	50
Don't know	3
Refused	6

Based on:

N=1,001

DM20. And in which group does your total household [IF SINGLE: "PERSONAL"] income fall?
[READ LIST]

Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	6
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	9
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	8
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	20
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	9
\$150,000 or more	4
Don't know	5
Refused	9

Based on:

N=1,001

DM21. Do you currently own stocks, bonds, or mutual funds?

Yes	47
No	48
Don't know	1
Refused	4

Based on:

N=1,001

[ASK DM21 ONLY IF YES IN DM21:]

DM22. In the past 12 months, how many times did you make changes in your investments—buying or selling stocks or mutual funds either within or outside an employer-sponsored 401K plan? Would you say...

None	51
1	14
2	10
3	5
4	4
5-9 times	6
10-14 times	3
15-19 times	*
20-24 times	1
25 times or more	2
Don't know	3
Refused	1

Based on:

N=574

DM25. INTERVIEWER RECORD Respondent's Gender:

Male	47
Female	53

Based on:

N=1,001

REGION:

Northeast	19
Midwest	24
South	35
West	22

Based on:

N=1,001

AP-GfK Poll Methodology

The **Associated Press-GfK Poll** was conducted September 3rd – September 8th, 2009, by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media – a division of GfK Custom Research North America. This telephone poll is based on a nationally-representative probability sample of 1,001 adults age 18 or older. The interviews were conducted with 801 respondents on landlines and 200 on cellular telephones. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. The survey sample included the contiguous 48 states, Alaska and Hawaii. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

The combined landline and cell phone data were weighted to account for probabilities of selection, as well as age, sex, education and race, using targets from the March 2008 supplement of the Current Population Survey. In addition to these factors, the weighting takes into account the patterns of land and cell phone usage by region from the 2008 Spring estimates provided by Mediamark Research Inc.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total significantly more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

Trend data are displayed for selected questions from previous AP-GfK Polls that also consisted of telephone interviews with nationally-representative probability samples of adults age 18 or older. Details about all AP-GfK Polls are available at <http://www.ap-gfkipoll.com>.