

October 24, 2013

Anzalone Liszt Grove Research

National Polling Summary

Friends,

Below you will find the Anzalone Liszt Grove Research National Polling Summary, which provides a pollster's take on data and trends that affect political campaigns.

This week we focus on this month's federal government shutdown.

Following our analysis are additional news items and data we thought you'd enjoy.

John Anzalone, Jeff Liszt and Lisa Grove

In addition to the estimated \$24 billion impact on the country's economy, public polling shows this month's government shutdown has dragged down confidence in the country's direction, support for incumbent politicians, and views of the Republican Party.

The public's mood has soured

Almost half of Americans (48%) think the budget dispute has "seriously damaged" the [economy](#), resulting in one of the most negative outlooks on the country's direction in recent history. According to a recent Pew Research [poll](#), only 14% of Americans are satisfied with the way things are going, while 81% say they are dissatisfied. The only time in the last two decades that Pew recorded lower satisfaction was in October 2008, during the height of the financial crisis.

Views on the economy are also increasingly negative. Almost half of Americans (48%) rate economic conditions as poor, up 16 percent from last month. And Gallup's Economic Confidence [Index](#) fell twelve points in the first week of the shutdown, the largest weekly decline since Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008.

Broad opposition to Republican negotiation tactics

Americans overwhelmingly [disapproved](#) of the partial government shutdown – 81% disapproved while only 17% approved. And most do not support the stand House Republicans took to cause the shutdown. A National Journal [poll](#) finds that by more than a 2-to-1 margin, the public opposed tying the funding of the federal government to the future of the Affordable Care Act.

Overall, 65% of adults thought “Congress should provide the funding to keep the government operating and deal with the health care issue separately” versus just 24% who believed the House “is right to fund the continuing operations of the federal government only if Obama agrees to delay or withdraw his health care plan.” Even a majority of Republicans (50%) believed that the issues should be kept separate.

Similarly, by a 2-to-1 margin or more, Americans thought that an increase in the federal debt ceiling should be dealt with separately from agreements on a variety of other proposals, including a one-year delay in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, cuts in spending for either discretionary or entitlement programs, and an authorization for the construction of the Keystone pipeline.

Record level of anti-incumbent sentiment

Americans’ frustration with the shutdown has translated into record-high anti-incumbent sentiment. Almost three-quarters of registered voters (74%) believe that most members of Congress should not be [reelected](#) in 2014, while only 18% believe they should. In comparison, merely a month before the wave 2010 election, just half of voters thought most members of Congress should not be reelected.

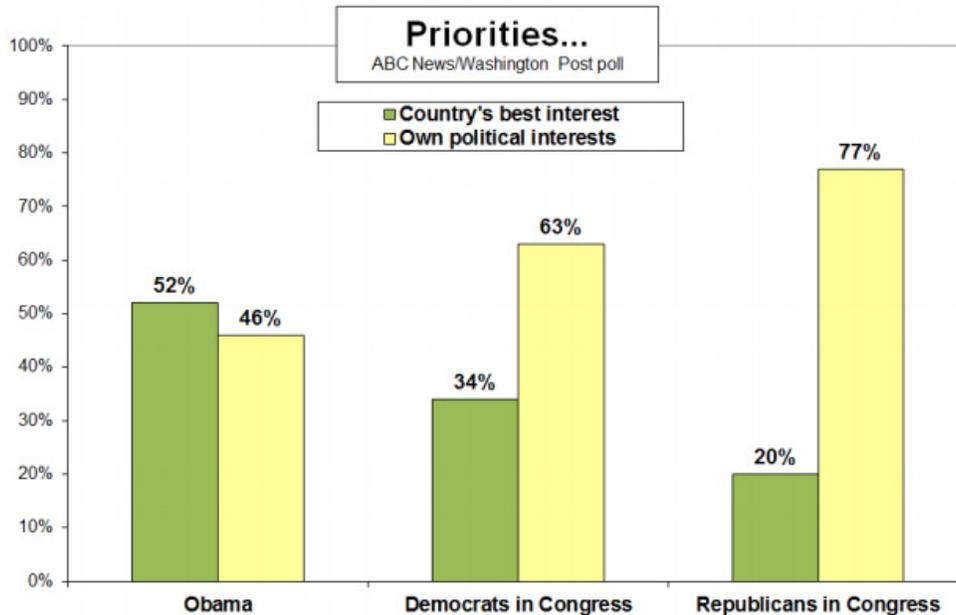
When asked specifically about their own representative in Congress – a measure that historically has been more positive – 66% of adults in the ABC News/Washington Post [poll](#) said they were “inclined to look around for someone else to vote for,” while only 24% said they were inclined to reelect their own member. This is the highest level of openness to a new representative in Congress in over two decades.

Republicans take the brunt of the damage

While no one looks particularly good in the aftermath of the shutdown, Republicans have fared the worst. In an ABC News/Washington Post [poll](#), 77% of Americans disapproved of the way Republicans in Congress were handling negotiations over the federal budget, while 61% disapproved of the way Democrats were handling negotiations. President Obama received less criticism, but a majority of Americans (54%) still disapproved of his handling.

A majority (53%) of Americans place more blame for the shutdown on Republicans in Congress in both an NBC/Wall Street Journal [poll](#) and an ABC/Washington Post [poll](#), while less than a third (31% and 29% respectively) place more blame on President Obama.

The dichotomy voters see between President Obama and Republicans in Congress is evident in views on their [motivation](#). While 50% of registered voters believe Obama is “interested in doing what’s best for the country (47% believe he is “interested in doing what’s best for himself politically”), just 19% believe Republicans in Congress are interested in doing what’s best and 78% believe they are looking out for themselves politically.



Amidst the public's disapproval of recent GOP tactics, Gallup [finds](#) Americans' view of the Republican Party has sunk to an all-time low. While 43% of Americans view the Democratic Party favorably, only 28% of Americans now view the Republican Party favorably – a ten percent drop from last month, and the lowest favorable rating measured for either party since Gallup started asking the question in 1992.

Much of this drop in support is driven by internal angst in the Republican Party. A majority of self-identified Republicans (58%) [disapproved](#) of the way Republicans in Congress handled budget negotiations. And now more than a quarter (27%) of self-identified Republicans view their own party unfavorably – an eight percent increase from last month, and more than double the percent of Democrats who see their own party unfavorably (13%).

Growing Tea Party divide emerges

Americans' views on the Tea Party have also greatly soured, according to a recent Pew Research [poll](#). Now nearly half of Americans (49%) view the Tea Party unfavorably, while just 30% view it favorably. Moderate Republicans in particular have turned increasingly against the Tea Party – in just the last four months, Tea Party favorability among these Republicans has dropped from 46% to 27%.

The Pew survey also finds a wide divide between Republicans who agree with the Tea Party movement, and those who do not. Tea Party Republicans are [more likely](#) to be older, male, and have higher levels of income and education than non-Tea Party Republicans. And they are more likely to take the hardline conservative approach on a range of issues including

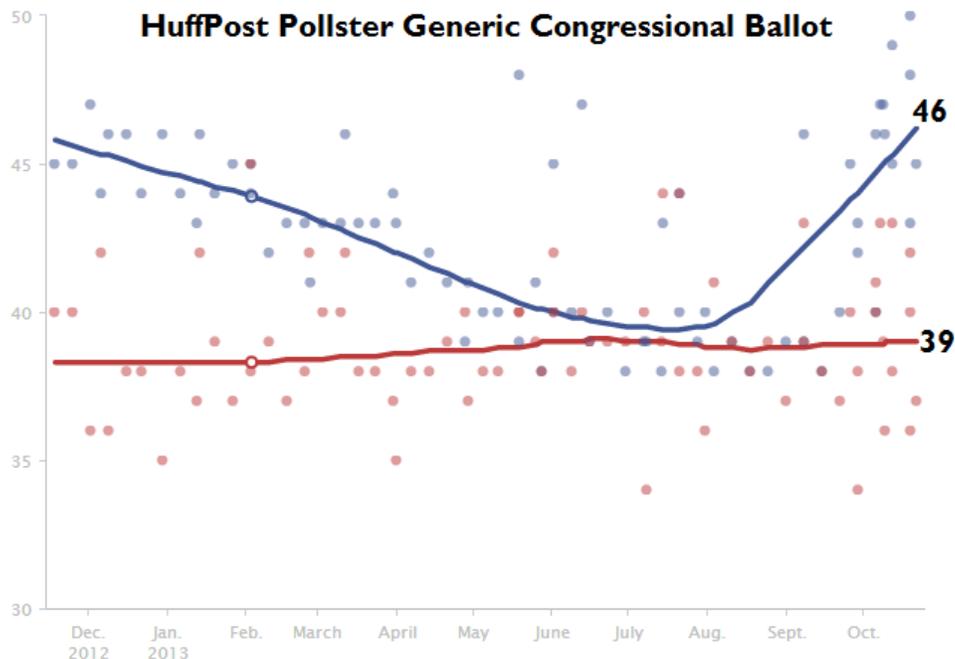
maintaining a smaller government, opposing marriage equality and abortion rights, and protecting gun rights.

Tea Party Republicans also take a hard line when it comes to compromise in Congress. By a 36-point margin, Tea Party Republicans say Congressional Republicans “have compromised too much” with Congressional Democrats, rather than not enough. In contrast, by an 18-point margin, non-Tea Party Republicans believe Congressional Republicans “have *not* compromised enough.” And by a 42-point margin, Tea Party Republicans want Republican leaders to move in a “more conservative” direction, rather than a more moderate one. Meanwhile non-Tea Party Republicans want Republican leaders to become more moderate by a 5-point margin. This is best symbolized in these two groups’ views of Ted Cruz – who is viewed favorably by 74% of Tea Party Republicans and only 25% of non-Tea Party Republicans.

Tea Party supporters, however, don’t see themselves as going against the grain. A CBS News [poll](#) finds that while only 28% of Americans overall see the Tea Party as reflective of the views of most Americans, two-thirds (67%) of Tea Party supporters believe that it is.

A look ahead to 2014

Three [different public polls](#) conducted since the end of the shutdown have found Democrats with an eight-point advantage among registered voters on the generic Congressional ballot. Furthermore, the percent of Americans who [identify](#) with the Republican Party is at a record low, with only 20% considering themselves Republican. And for the first time since Republicans took control of the House in 2010, a majority of Americans (54%) think it is “[bad](#) for the country that the Republican Party is in control of the U.S. House of Representatives.”



OTHER NEWS FROM THE POLLING AND POLITICAL WORLD

Nate Silver on the six big [takeaways](#) from the government shutdown

The Huffington Post [explains](#) how “men got us into the shutdown, women got us out”

Terry McAuliffe increases his lead in the Virginia gubernatorial [race](#) after the shutdown

An NBC News/Esquire poll reveals the new [American Center](#)

The Washington Post measures how the [American Dream](#) is faring in today’s economy

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania study the effect of campaign [field offices](#)

Data vendor Acxiom is setting up a [website](#) to allow members of the general public to see [what data is collected on them](#)

Public Polling

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove
RCP Average	10/1 - 10/20	--	43.7	51.3
CNN/ORC	10/18 - 10/20	RV	43	53
Gallup	10/18 - 10/20	1500 A	43	51
Economist/YouGov	10/12 - 10/14	691 RV	42	56
Pew Research	10/9 - 10/13	1504 A	43	51
NBC/WSJ	10/7 - 10/9	800 A	47	48

GENERIC CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Democrats	Republicans
RCP Average	10/4 - 10/13	--	46.8	41.3
Pew Research	10/9 - 10/13	1259 RV	49	43
Rasmussen	10/7 - 10/13	3500 LV	45	38
Dem. Corps	10/6 - 10/8	860 LV	47	43

PARTY SELF ID

Polling Firm	Date	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Pollster.com Trend	Oct. 21	32.0%	23.6%	34.5%

Missed a past newsletter? They can be found on our website, [HERE!](#)