

**FINAL FREQUENCIES (N=2,000)
NATIONAL SURVEY OF ADULTS
The Mellman Group, Inc. and Public Opinion Strategies
March 24-29, 2011**

Hello. My name is _____. I'm calling long distance from _____. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation. Could I please speak with the male/female 18 or older in your household who celebrated a birthday most recently?

[RECORD, BUT DO NOT ASK, GENDER:]

male..... 49
female..... 51

1. Now I'd like to talk to you about the state of the economy. How would you rate economic conditions in this country today? Would you say they are excellent, good, only fair or poor?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>3/10</u>	<u>2/09</u>	<u>3/08</u>	<u>3/06</u>	<u>3/04</u>	<u>3/02</u>	<u>4/00</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>4/92</u>
Excellent.....	2	1	0	2	4	2	3	14	2	1
Good.....	8	6	6	15	30	30	31	46	31	11
Only Fair	36	39	21	44	45	44	51	30	48	40
Poor	55	53	73	39	20	24	14	9	18	48
DK/ref [VOL].....	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Total Excellent/Good ...	9	7	6	17	34	32	34	60	33	12
Total Fair/Poor	90	92	94	83	65	68	65	39	66	88

2010 Tracking from Pew Research Center, 2008-1992 from Gallup

[ROTATE Q.2-Q.3]

2. How would you rate your financial situation today – as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>4/10</u>	<u>4/09</u>	<u>4/08</u>	<u>4/07</u>	<u>4/06</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>4/04</u>	<u>4/03</u>	<u>4/02</u>	<u>8/01</u>
Excellent.....	5	8	6	7	10	10	8	9	5	9	8
Good.....	27	33	36	38	45	41	44	42	45	43	44
Only Fair	43	40	39	37	31	37	36	36	38	35	35
Poor	24	19	19	17	14	12	12	13	12	13	12
DK/ref [VOL].....	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Excellent/Good ...	32	41	42	45	55	51	52	51	50	52	52
Total Fair/Poor	68	59	58	54	45	49	48	49	50	48	47

Tracking from Gallup

3. Considering your income and what you have to live on and the cost of living, how would you say your family is making out today—all things considered, would you say you are getting along all right, or getting along only fairly well, or feeling quite pinched, or just not able to make ends meet?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>4/91</u>	<u>10/79</u>	<u>1/78</u>	<u>1/77</u>	<u>1/76</u>	<u>10/74</u>
Alright	20	20	26	22	30	32	27	25
Fairly well	35	48	40	39	42	41	42	41
Feeling quite pinched	31	25	27	31	21	20	24	28
Not able to make ends meet	14	6	6	9	7	7	6	6
DK/ref [VOL]	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Alright/Fairly well.....	54	68	66	61	72	73	69	66
Total Pinched/Not able to make ends meet	45	31	33	40	28	27	30	34

Tracking from Roper Starch Worldwide

[END ROTATION]

4. Thinking about ten years from now, do you think your economic circumstances will be much better than they are right now, somewhat better, somewhat worse, or much worse?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Much better	13	25
Somewhat better.....	41	48
Somewhat worse	14	9
Much worse.....	12	5
The same [VOL].....	12	6
DK/ref [VOL].....	8	7
Total Better	54	72
Total Worse	26	15

5. Thinking about your own personal economic situation today - do you feel you are very much in control, somewhat in control, not very much in control, or not at all in control of your own personal economic situation?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>	<u>3/06</u>
Very much in control	19	23	26
Somewhat in control	49	51	55
Not very much in control	20	16	14
Not at all in control	10	9	5
DK/ref [VOL].....	1	1	1
Total In Control	68	74	81
Total Not In Control	31	25	19

6. Thinking about people in this country today - do you feel they are very much in control of their economic situation, somewhat in control, not very much in control, or not at all in control of their economic situation?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Very much in control	4	5
Somewhat in control	32	38
Not very much in control	37	38
Not at all in control	20	17
DK/ref [VOL]	6	2
Total In Control	37	43
Total Not In Control	58	55

7. How much impact would you say the recession had, or is having, on your economic situation? Did it hurt your economic situation a great deal, hurt your situation somewhat, did it not really affect you, or did the recession benefit your economic situation?

Hurt great deal.....	32
Hurt somewhat.....	49
Not really affect you	18
Benefit.....	1
[VOL] No opinion/Don't know	1

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

8. Which of the following comes closest to your own point of view: **[ROTATE]**

A. Whether or not a person gets ahead economically in this country is mostly up to them—if someone has the drive, works hard and gets the right skills, they can get ahead economically in America.

OR

B. Circumstances beyond any person's control have a lot to do with whether or not they can get ahead economically in this country—the state of the economy or competition for jobs can severely limit a person's ability to get ahead economically in this country.

[IF A/B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	46	55
A, not so strongly.....	9	
B, not so strongly	11	
B, strongly	30	41
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	4	

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

9. Which of the following comes closest to your own point of view: **[ROTATE]**

A. Whether or not a person gets ahead economically in this country is mostly up to them—if someone has the drive, works hard and gets the right skills, they can get ahead economically in America.

OR

B. Circumstances beyond any person's control have a lot to do with whether or not they can get ahead economically in this country—a person's race, gender, and parents as well as the quality of education available where they happen to live can severely limit a person's ability to get ahead economically in this country.

[IF A/B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	47	58
A, not so strongly.....	11	
B, not so strongly.....	12	
B, strongly.....	27	39
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	3	

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

10. Think of your parents when they were your age. Would you say you are better off financially than they were or not?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>5/96</u>	<u>5/86</u>	<u>5/85</u>	<u>12/81</u>
Better off.....	56	67	82	75	69
Not better off.....	39	31	17	23	28
DK/ref [VOL]	5	2	1	2	4

Tracking from ABC News/Washington Post

11. Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger living at home?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Yes.....	31	32
No.....	69	68
DK/ref [VOL]	0	0

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

[ASK ONLY IF GENDER = 1, MALE AND Q.11=1]

12. Do you have at least one son?

Yes.....	77
No.....	23
DK/ref [VOL]	1

[ASK ONLY IF GENDER = 2, FEMALE AND Q.11=1]

13. Do you have at least one daughter?

Yes.....	77
No.....	23
DK/ref [VOL]	0

[ASK ONLY IF GENDER=1 AND Q.12=1, HAVE SON]

14. Will your son's opportunities to succeed be better than or not as good as those you've had?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1946</u>
Better	59	62	64
Not as good	32	21	13
DK/Same/ref [VOL]	9	17	23

*Tracking from Gallup***[ASK ONLY IF GENDER=2 AND Q.13=1, HAVE DAUGHTER]**

15. Will your daughter's opportunities to succeed be better than or not as good as those you've had?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1946</u>
Better	75	85	61
Not as good	17	7	20
DK/Same/ref [VOL]	8	8	19

*Tracking from Gallup***[ASK IF Q.11 = 2,3 OR Q.12/Q.13 = 2,3]**

16. Will the opportunities of children today to succeed be better than or not as good as those you've had?

Better	40
Not as good	52
DK/ref [VOL]	8

[Q.14 – Q.16 COLLAPSED]14- Will [your son's opportunities/your daughter's opportunities/the opportunities of children today] to
16. succeed be better than or not as good as those you've had?

Better	47
Not as good	46
DK/ref [VOL]	8

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]**[ASK ONLY IF Q.11 = 1, YES ON KIDS]**17. When your children are the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will be better, worse or about the same as yours or people your age? **[IF BETTER/WORSE, ASK:]** Is that much (BETTER/WORSE) or only somewhat?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Much better	20	32
Somewhat better	27	30
About the same	21	25
Somewhat worse	23	6
Much worse	6	4
DK/ref [VOL]	4	3
Total Better	47	62
Total Worse	28	10

[ASK ONLY IF Q.11 = 2,3, NO KIDS]

18. When kids today are the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will be better, worse or about the same as yours is now? **[IF BETTER/WORSE, ASK:]** Is that much (BETTER/WORSE) or only somewhat?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Much better	8	15
Somewhat better.....	18	25
About the same.....	23	29
Somewhat worse	27	16
Much worse.....	19	7
DK/ref [VOL].....	6	8
Total Better	26	40
Total Worse	45	23

[Q.17-Q.18 COLLAPSED]

- 17- When [your children/kids today] are the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will
18. be better, worse or about the same as yours is now? **[IF BETTER/WORSE, ASK:]** Is that much (BETTER/WORSE) or only somewhat?

Much better	12	32
Somewhat better.....	21	
About the same.....	22	
Somewhat worse	25	
Much worse.....	15	40
DK/ref [VOL].....	6	

[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]

19. I'd like to talk with you now about a term with which you are probably familiar—the American Dream. Do you personally feel that the American Dream is very much alive today, somewhat alive, or not really alive?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>12/03</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1986</u>
Very much alive.....	17	33	22	32
Somewhat alive	53	47	52	55
Not really alive.....	27	15	21	11
Not sure/DK [VOL].....	2	5	5	2

Tracking from RoperReports/NOP World

20. Do you think you will reach, as you define it, the American Dream in your lifetime, or have you already reached it?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>4/09</u>	<u>3/05</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1992</u>
Have already achieved the American Dream.....	31	44	32	45	37
Will reach it in my lifetime	37	31	38	35	43
Will not reach it in my lifetime.....	27	20	27	16	17
Unsure [VOL].....	6	5	3	4	3

Tracking from CBS/New York Times (4/09, 3/05) and Wirthlin Worldwide (1992 and 1996)

21. Do you now earn enough money to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

Yes	37
No.....	62
DK/ref [VOL].....	1

21 with trend. AMONG EMPLOYED

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>11/06</u>	<u>1/06</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>5/04</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>1/92</u>
Yes	39	46	46	40	51	43	39
No.....	60	53	53	59	48	56	61
DK/ref [VOL].....	1	1	1	1	1	1	0

Tracking from Pew Research Center (2002-2006), US News & World Report (1992)

[ASK ONLY IF Q. 21=2, NO]

22. Do you think you will be able to earn enough money in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

Yes	39
No.....	55
DK/ref [VOL].....	6

22 with trend. AMONG EMPLOYED

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>11/06</u>	<u>1/06</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>5/04</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>1/92</u>
Yes	46	60	53	59	52	54	56
No.....	47	34	43	37	40	41	36
DK/ref [VOL].....	7	6	4	3	8	5	8

Tracking from Pew Research Center (2002-2006), US News & World Report (1992)

[Q.21 – Q.22 COLLAPSED]

21- Do you now earn enough money to lead the kind of life you want, or not? **[IF NO]** Do you think you
22. will be able to earn enough money in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

Earn enough now	37
Will in the future	24
Won't in the future.....	34
DK/ref [VOL].....	5

21-22 with trend. AMONG EMPLOYED

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>11/06</u>	<u>1/06</u>	<u>5/05</u>	<u>5/04</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>1/92</u>
Earn enough now	39	46	46	40	51	43	39
Will in the future	28	32	28	35	25	30	34
Won't in the future.....	28	18	23	22	19	23	22
DK/ref [VOL].....	5	4	3	3	5	4	5

Tracking from Pew Research Center (2002-2006), US News & World Report (1992)

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

23. Which of the following is more important to you? **[ROTATE]**

A. Financial stability

B. Moving up the income ladder

[IF A/B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	82	85
A, not so strongly.....	3	
B, not so strongly.....	3	
B, strongly.....	10	13
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	2	

[ASK ONLY IF Q.11=1, HAVE KIDS]

24. Thinking about your own kids, do you think it will be easier or harder for them to move up the income ladder? **[IF EASIER/HARDER, ASK:]** Is that much (EASIER/HARDER) or only somewhat?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Much easier.....	12	19
Somewhat easier.....	21	25
Somewhat harder.....	31	27
Much harder.....	28	19
About the same [VOL]	6	4
DK/ref [VOL]	2	6
Total Easier	33	43
Total Harder	59	46

[ASK ONLY IF Q.11 = 2,3, NO KIDS]

25. Thinking about young people, under the age of 18, do you think it will be easier or harder for them to move up the income ladder? **[IF EASIER/HARDER, ASK:]** Is that much (EASIER/HARDER) or only somewhat?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Much easier.....	6	10
Somewhat easier.....	9	21
Somewhat harder.....	29	33
Much harder.....	48	28
About the same [VOL]	4	5
DK/ref [VOL]	4	3
Total Easier	16	31
Total Harder	77	61

[Q.24-Q.25 COLLAPSED]

- 24- Thinking about [your own kids/young people], do you think it will be easier or harder for them to
 25. move up the income ladder? **[IF EASIER/HARDER, ASK:]** Is that much (EASIER/HARDER) or only somewhat?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
Much easier	8	12
Somewhat easier	13	22
Somewhat harder.....	30	31
Much harder	42	26
About the same [VOL]	4	5
DK/ref [VOL].....	3	4
Total Easier.....	21	34
Total Harder.....	71	57

[ASK ONLY IF Q.24/25=3, 4: HARDER]

26. Which of the following do you think is most likely to prevent today's kids from moving up the income ladder?

[READ & RANDOMIZE LIST] [ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

The recession and general weakness in the American economy	17
Goods and services will be too expensive	4
Today's kids do not have the proper work ethic or values	17
Government debt will be too large.....	15
Too many American jobs have moved overseas.....	22
Too many kids have not gotten a good education.....	18
Other [VOL]	6
DK/Not sure [VOL].....	2

[ASK ONLY IF Q.24/25=1,2: EASIER]

27. Which of the following is most likely to help today's kids move up the income ladder?

[READ & RANDOMIZE LIST] [ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

America will continue to lead the world economically	15
Medical advances will keep them healthier	8
The next generation learns how to use new products quickly ...	17
Technology will make life easier	40
Today's kids will have fewer worries in the future than we do today.....	8
Other [VOL]	4
DK/Not sure [VOL].....	7

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

How important is each of the following factors in determining whether people in the U.S. get ahead or fall behind economically. After each please tell me if it is one of the most important factors determining whether or not Americans get ahead or fall behind economically, very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all?

	One of most	Very Impt	Smwt Impt	Not Very Impt	Not At All Impt	DK/ Ref
[ROTATE Q.28/29-Q.48/49]						
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
28. Coming from a financially successful family.....	12	29	37	13	8	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
29. Having well-educated parents	15	38	30	10	7	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
30. The state of the economy.....	29	49	18	2	1	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
31. The economic situation in the country at the time a person is in their prime working years	22	47	25	3	1	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
32. Growing up in a stable family environment	25	53	18	2	2	0
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
33. Growing up in a two-parent household	19	40	25	9	5	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
34. Whether the person is healthy or not.....	22	50	22	3	2	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
35. Whether the person has adequate health care or not	19	44	26	7	3	1
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
36. Access to loans	9	32	37	12	8	2
37. Luck.....	6	17	32	21	23	1
38. Growing up in a good neighborhood.....	10	39	36	9	5	0
39. A person's race.....	4	13	24	27	30	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
40. A person's drive and personal ambition.....	41	49	9	1	0	0
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
41. Hard work.....	43	49	6	1	1	0
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
42. Knowing the right people	16	36	34	9	4	1
43. A person's gender.....	4	13	24	28	29	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
44. Access to quality K-12 education.....	34	55	8	1	1	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
45. The quality of a person's education.....	31	51	15	2	1	0
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
46. The attitudes and values a person's parents taught them	33	52	11	2	1	1

Unless noted, tracking from Greenberg Quinlan Rosner

47. Having personal savings.....	19	50	24	4	2	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
48. Going to a college, university, community college, or trade school.....	30	48	15	4	1	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
49. Graduating from a four-year college.....	24	44	22	6	3	1

[ROTATE Q.50/Q.51 and Q.52/Q.53]**[SPLIT SAMPLE A]**

50. Which of the following young people is more likely to get ahead economically? **[ROTATE]**

Young person A comes from a one-parent family. Young person A has the drive and ambition to get ahead.

OR

Young person B comes from a two-parent family. Young person B lacks drive and ambition.

[IF A/B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	73	79
A, not so strongly.....	6	
B, not so strongly.....	4	
B, strongly.....	10	14
Equally likely [VOL]	6	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	2	

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

51. Which of the following young people is more likely to get ahead economically? **[ROTATE]**

Young person A grew up in a poor neighborhood. Young person A has the drive and ambition to get ahead.

OR

Young person B grew up in a wealthy neighborhood. Young person B lacks drive and ambition.

[IF A/B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	69	78
A, not so strongly.....	9	
B, not so strongly.....	5	
B, strongly.....	11	15
Equally likely [VOL]	4	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	2	

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

52. Which of the following young people is more likely to get ahead economically? **[ROTATE]**

Young person C is talented and creative. Young person C grew up in a poor neighborhood.

OR

Young person D is an average student and lacks imagination. Young person D grew up in a wealthy neighborhood.

[IF C/D, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

C, strongly.....	64	72
C, not so strongly	8	
D, not so strongly	6	
D, strongly.....	13	20
Equally likely [VOL]	6	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	3	

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

53. Which of the following young people is more likely to get ahead economically? **[ROTATE]**

Young person C is talented and creative. Young person C comes from a one-parent family.

OR

Young person D is an average student and lacks imagination. Young person D comes from a two-parent family.

[IF C/D, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

C, strongly.....	60	70
C, not so strongly	11	
D, not so strongly	7	
D, strongly.....	14	20
Equally likely [VOL]	5	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	4	

54. Generally speaking, do you think the government does more to help or more to hurt people trying to move up the economic ladder? **[IF HELP/HURT]** Do you feel that way strongly or not strongly?

	<u>3/11</u>	<u>2/09</u>
More to help, strongly.....	13	19
More to help, not strongly.....	14	17
More to hurt, not strongly	16	13
More to hurt, strongly	36	34
[VOL] Both.....	4	3
[VOL] Depends	8	5
[VOL] Neither	3	3
[VOL] No opinion/Don't know.....	6	7
Total Help	27	36
Total Hurt	52	46

55. Which of the following four statements comes closest to your own point of view:

[ROTATE STATEMENTS A & B ONLY]

A. Government should focus on making sure the poor and middle class have the opportunity to improve their financial situation.

B. Government should focus on preventing the poor and middle class from falling too far down the income ladder when they have financial problems for reasons not of their own making.

C. Government should do both equally

D. Government should do neither

[IF A/B/C/D, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	29	33
A, not so strongly	5	
B, strongly.....	11	16
B, not so strongly	5	
C, strongly.....	28	34
C, not so strongly	6	
D, strongly.....	10	13
D, not so strongly.....	2	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	4	

[ROTATE Q.56-Q.58]

56. When the government helps people improve their financial situations, which comes closer to your point of view: **[ROTATE]**

A. Government is generally helping the right people

B. Government is generally helping the wrong people

[IF A/B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	20	30
A, not so strongly	9	
B, not so strongly	14	
B, strongly.....	40	54
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	16	

57. Which of the following three statements comes closest to your own point of view: **[ROTATE]**

A. Government is pursuing the right policies to help poor and middle class Americans improve their financial situations but is ineffective at carrying them out.

B. Government is pursuing the wrong policies to help poor and middle class Americans improve their financial situations.

C. Government is pursuing the right policies to help poor and middle class Americans improve their financial situations, and is doing so effectively.

[IF A/B/C, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	35	43
A, not so strongly	8	
B, strongly.....	26	37
B, not so strongly	11	
C, strongly.....	9	12
C, not so strongly	3	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	9	

58. Which of the following three statements comes closest to your own point of view: **[ROTATE]**

A. Government should be doing more to help poor and middle class Americans improve their financial situations.

B. Government should be doing less to help poor and middle class Americans improve their financial situations.

C. The level of government effort to help poor and middle class Americans improve their financial situations should remain about the same as it is now.

[IF A/B/C, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

A, strongly.....	50	58
A, not so strongly	8	
B, strongly.....	10	17
B, not so strongly	6	
C, strongly.....	12	19
C, not so strongly	6	
Not sure/Don't know [VOL]	6	

[END ROTATION]

[RESUME ASKING ALL]

Now I am going to ask you how much the government does to help various groups economically. How much does the government help **[READ GROUP]**—economically—a great deal, some, not too much, or not at all?

	A great deal	Some	Not too much	Not at all	DK/Ref
[ROTATE Q.59-Q.62]					
59. The rich.....	54	22	8	9	6
60. The middle class	7	40	34	16	3
61. The poor.....	16	36	28	17	3
62. People like you	6	33	32	28	1

Now I am going to read some goals that some people say the government should work toward to help people get ahead economically. For each one I read, please tell me if you believe this is one of the most important goals the government should work toward, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important for the government to work toward.

	One of Most impt	Very impt	Smwt impt	Not too impt	Not at all impt	Don't know
[ROTATE Q.63-Q.74]						
63. Ensuring equal opportunity	33	46	14	3	3	1
64. Helping people out of poverty	23	42	24	5	5	1
65. Preventing the middle class from falling behind	21	45	22	5	6	2
66. Making sure that people with drive and talent can reach the top no matter what their family background	26	46	17	5	6	1
67. Ensuring that every job pays at least a good wage with benefits	30	44	15	5	6	1
68. Making health care accessible to everyone	30	40	16	5	8	1
69. Providing basic needs to the very poor.....	28	47	19	2	2	1
70. Promoting job creation	39	44	10	2	3	1
71. Letting people keep more of their money.....	33	45	14	4	2	2
72. Ensuring all children get a quality education	46	42	8	2	2	0
73. Increasing the standard of living for all Americans	26	42	19	6	7	1
74. Helping people save and prepare for retirement.....	22	42	19	8	8	1

[ROTATE BATTERIES I - II]**[BATTERY I]**

Now I am going to read you some steps the government could take to help Americans improve their economic situation. For each one I read, please tell me if you believe this would be one of the most effective steps the government could take, very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not effective at all:

	One of most Effect	Very Effect	Smwt Effect	Not Very Effect	Not At All Effect	DK/ Ref
[ROTATE Q.75-Q.87]						
75. Cut taxes for middle income families	32	40	20	5	2	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
76. Provide loans to small businesses that want to grow and expand	30	43	20	3	2	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
77. Help people with good business ideas to start their own business	26	43	21	5	4	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
78. Improve the quality of elementary and high school education	40	44	11	2	2	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
79. Make college more affordable	40	39	13	4	3	1
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
80. Make it easier to save for retirement.....	26	42	22	5	4	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
81. Reduce the government's debt.....	43	38	13	3	1	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
82. Reduce government spending	48	32	14	3	2	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
83. Help to keep and create jobs in the US	51	37	7	3	1	0
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
84. Help to keep and create good jobs in the US	49	37	9	2	2	1
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
85. Provide more neighborhood community resources, like parks, libraries and recreation centers.....	17	30	33	11	7	2
86. Offer more job training programs and education for adult workers.....	28	45	20	4	2	1
87. Promote homeownership	20	36	25	10	7	2

[BATTERY II]

Now I am going to read you some steps the government could take to make sure people don't fall behind economically. For each one I read, please tell me if you believe this would be one of the most effective steps the government could take, very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not effective at all:

	One of most Effect	Very Effect	Smwt Effect	Not Very Effect	Not At All Effect	DK/ Ref
[ROTATE Q.88/89-Q.102/103]						
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
88. Protect people's homes from foreclosure during this economic period.....	29	39	17	8	7	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
89. Support homeowners who now owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth.....	21	30	23	12	10	4
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
90. Cut taxes.....	34	34	20	7	4	2
91. Keep jobs in America.....	59	31	6	1	2	0
92. Make college more affordable	39	41	12	4	4	0
93. Help people save for financial emergencies	21	37	23	8	9	2
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
94. Reduce the government's debt.....	45	36	14	3	1	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
95. Reduce government spending.....	48	31	12	4	3	2
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
96. Make healthcare more accessible.....	32	40	17	5	5	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
97. Raise the minimum wage.....	30	36	18	7	8	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
98. Provide unemployment insurance payments to laid off workers.....	23	41	23	7	3	2
[RESUME ASKING ALL]						
99. Improve the quality of elementary and high school education.....	40	43	10	2	3	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
100. Make neighborhoods safe.	22	41	26	5	3	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
101. Provide after school programs that keep kids off the street and out of gangs.....	28	39	22	5	5	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE A]						
102. Offer job training programs and education for adult workers.....	29	45	19	4	2	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE B]						
103. Provide financial education that teaches people how to better handle their money.....	28	38	21	6	6	1

[RESUME ASKING ALL]**THANK YOU. THE FEW REMAINING QUESTIONS ARE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.**

104. What is your age? **[CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99]**
- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 18-29 | 22 |
| 30-39 | 17 |
| 40-49 | 18 |
| 50-59 | 18 |
| 60+ | 24 |
| ref/na [VOL] | 1 |
105. What was the last level of schooling you completed?
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Less than high school graduate | 12 |
| High school graduate | 31 |
| Some college, no degree | 23 |
| Two-year college graduate..... | 7 |
| Four-year college graduate..... | 17 |
| Post-graduate..... | 10 |
| dk/ref [VOL] | 0 |
106. In terms of your job status, are you employed full-time, employed part-time, unemployed but looking for work, retired, a student, or a homemaker? **[IF PART-TIME:]** Are you part-time by choice, or would you like full-time work?
- | | |
|--|----|
| Employed, full-time | 46 |
| Employed, part-time, by choice | 7 |
| Employed, part-time, want full-time..... | 3 |
| Unemployed..... | 9 |
| Retired..... | 21 |
| Student | 4 |
| Homemaker..... | 5 |
| [VOL] Other | 3 |
| [VOL] No opinion/Don't know | 1 |
107. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else? **[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? **[IF INDEPENDENT ASK:]** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|
| strong Republican | 18 | 28 |
| not so strong Republican..... | 6 | |
| independent leans Republican..... | 5 | |
| independent | 30 | |
| independent leans Democratic | 5 | |
| not so strong Democrat | 7 | |
| strong Democrat | 23 | 34 |
| dk/na/other | 8 | |

108. Do you consider yourself very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or very conservative? **[IF MODERATE, ASK:]** Do you tend to lean toward the liberal or conservative side?
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|
| very liberal | 9 | 25 |
| somewhat liberal | 11 | |
| moderate leans liberal | 4 | |
| moderate..... | 28 | |
| moderate leans conservative | 7 | |
| somewhat conservative | 18 | |
| very conservative | 17 | 42 |
| dk/ref [VOL] | 5 | |
109. Are you Hispanic, or of Spanish descent?
- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| yes | 15 |
| no..... | 85 |
| refused [VOL] | 0 |
110. Are you black, white, Asian, Native American or some other race?
- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Black | 13 |
| White..... | 66 |
| Asian | 5 |
| Native American | 1 |
| other | 14 |
| refused [VOL] | 2 |
111. Last year, that is in 2010, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? **[DO NOT READ PUNCHES]**
- [IF RESPONDENT UNSURE:]** Well, was it **[READ PUNCHES]?**
- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Less than \$25K | 24 |
| \$25K to under \$50K..... | 26 |
| \$50K to under \$75K..... | 15 |
| \$75K to under \$100K..... | 8 |
| \$100K or more | 10 |
| DK/ref [VOL] | 16 |
112. Thinking about your current total family income from all sources before taxes, is it more now than it was before the recession started in 2007, less now than it was before the recession started in 2007, or about the same now as it was before the recession?
- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| More | 18 |
| Less | 43 |
| The same | 34 |
| DK/ref [VOL] | 4 |

Thank you for answering these questions.

Methodology

Findings come from a national survey of 2,000 adults, conducted between March 24 and March 29, 2011. Each interview lasted approximately 25 minutes.

Results for age, gender, region and race were weighted to known parameters based on the Census.

The survey included a base sample which employed a random digit dial sample frame. In addition, because of the growing number of people who do not own or answer a land-line telephone, the survey included a cell phone sample as well.

The 95 percent confidence interval is +/- 3.4 percent for questions where opinion is equally divided. This margin of error increases among subgroups where the sample size is smaller.

Note on Q.111

Response proportions for the income question are not evenly divided among the five categories presented, even though these categories represent income quintiles for the latest year available from the Census (2009). There are several possible explanations for this apparent discrepancy. First, some respondents refuse to answer the income question; other research suggests those who refuse to respond to this question may earn disproportionately higher incomes. Second, responses to other questions in this survey reveal that a large proportion of the public saw their income decline due to the recession; hence, the 2009 quintiles might not be accurate for 2010 income. Third, individuals may misestimate their annual income as an accurate figure is not readily available, except perhaps on tax day.

The poll was weighted to Census data for known parameters like geographic region, gender, race, and age—but, because of the uncertainties around income, that parameter was not used for weighting. However, a sensitivity analysis, which weighted the poll to the 2009 Census data for income, revealed that such weighting would have no impact on the conclusions drawn from the survey.