

## **Americans Disapprove of Shutdown, Express Anger at Washington**

October 1-2, 2013

- By a large margin, Americans disapprove (72%) of shutting down the government due to differences over the health care law.
- Right now, Republicans (44%) are getting more of the blame for the shutdown than the President and Democrats (35%), but both sides get low marks for their handling of it.
- Most are unhappy with the way things are going in Washington, including 43% who are angry – the highest percentage in CBS News polls.
- Americans think Congress' priority should be to get the government back up and running (73%), not to try to and stop the health care law (21%). 66% think any budget agreement should be separate from funding for the health care law.
- 51% think a budget agreement will be reached in the near future, but 42% think a resolution will take a long time.

Fully 72% of Americans disapprove of shutting down the federal government over differences on the Affordable Care Act; just 25% approve of this action. Republicans are divided: 48% approve, while 49%, disapprove. Most Tea Party supporters approve of the government shutdown – 57% of them do. Disapproval of the shutdown is high among Democrats and independents. This CBS News Poll was conducted after the partial government shutdown began on October 1.

### **Shutting Gov't Down Due to Differences about the Health Care Law**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind	Tea Party
Approve	25%	48%	12%	21%	57%
Disapprove	72	49	86	76	40

With much of the federal government now shut down, nearly nine in 10 Americans are unhappy with the way things are going in Washington, including 43% who are angry – up 13 points since March and the highest since CBS News began asking the question in 2010.

Majorities across the political spectrum are displeased with Washington.

### **Feeling about the Way Things are Going in Washington**

	Now	3/2013	12/2012	7/2011	5/2011	2/2010
Enthusiastic	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%
Satisfied	8	16	19	14	22	26
Dissatisfied	44	50	54	51	54	53
Angry	43	30	21	28	19	17

Republicans in Congress receive more of the blame for the shutdown: 44% of Americans blame them, while 35% put more blame on President Obama and the Democrats in Congress. These views are virtually the same as they were last week before the shutdown, when Americans were asked who they *would* blame if a shutdown occurred.

**Who Do You Blame More for the Government Shutdown?**

	Now	Before Shutdown (9/25/2013)
Republicans in Congress	44%	44%
Pres. Obama and the Democrats	35	35
Both (vol.)	17	16

When the government shut down back in November 1995, 51% of Americans blamed the Republicans in Congress, while 28% blamed President Bill Clinton.

**Negotiations**

Americans disapprove of how both sides are handling the budget negotiations, but more disapprove of Congressional Republicans (72%) than President Obama and the Democrats in Congress (61%).

**Handling of Budget Negotiations**

	Pres. Obama & Democrats	Congressional Republicans
Approve	35%	24%
Disapprove	61	72

Most Americans want compromise. Majorities think the President and the Democrats in Congress and the Republicans in Congress should compromise in order to come to an agreement on the budget.

**Budget Negotiations: Compromise or Stick to Positions**

	Pres. Obama & Dems should...	Cong. Reps should...
Compromise	76%	78%
Stick to positions	21	18

But there are some party stalwarts who don't think compromise is the way to go. 38% of Republicans say members of their party in Congress should stick to their positions even if it means not coming to an agreement, while 36% of Democrats say that about their party.

A slim majority of Americans think a resolution will be reached soon, but a sizable 42% expect that will take a long time. Democrats (62%) are the most optimistic that there will be a resolution in the near future.

**Budget Standoff Will Be Resolved...**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
In near future	51%	47%	62%	46%
Take a long time	42	47	33	46

In the current budget debate, Americans think President Obama and the Democrats (48%) are more concerned than the Republicans in Congress (37%) about doing what is best for their family.

### Who is More Concerned About Doing What is Best for Your Family?

Pres. Obama & Democrats	48%
Republicans in Congress	37

More generally, most Americans think Congressional Republicans oppose the policies proposed by Barack Obama and the Democrats mostly to stop Democrats from gaining political advantage rather than because of a disagreement over policy. Americans are more divided when considering why the President and Democrats oppose Republican policies.

### When they Oppose the Other Side, Is It Mainly...?

	Congressional Republicans	Barack Obama & Democrats
For political advantage	61%	47%
Due to policy differences	32	43

### The Government Shutdown and the Health Care Law

By a large margin, Americans say the higher priority for Congress should now be getting the government running again, rather than trying to stop provisions of the health care law from taking effect. But there are striking partisan differences here. Most Democrats and independents think Congress should focus on getting the government running, while for 47% of Republicans the priority for Congress is to stop the health care law.

### Which Should be the Priority for Congress Now?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Get the government running again	73%	46%	90%	77%
Stop health care law from taking effect	21	47	6	17

Two-thirds of Americans think any agreement on the budget should be kept separate from discussions on the health care law. 26% (including slightly more than half of Republicans) think any budget agreement should also cut off funding for the law.

### Agreement on Budget Should ...

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Be separate from health care funding	66%	40%	81%	70%
Cut off health care funding	26	52	9	24

Those who like the health care law also overwhelmingly disapprove of shutting down the government. There is more support for the shutdown among Americans who don't like the 2010 health care law, but most, 59%, disapprove.

### Shutting Gov't Down Due to Differences about the Health Care Law

	Total	View of Health Care Law	
		Approve of ACA	Disapprove of ACA
Approve	25%	11%	38%
Disapprove	72	87	59

### Feeling the Effects of the Shutdown

Most Americans - 62% - don't think the federal government can operate effectively during a partial shutdown. This view is shared by majorities of Democrats (71%) and independents (63%). Republicans are divided.

**Federal Government can Operate Effectively during the Shutdown**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind
Yes, can operate	35%	48%	25%	35%
No, cannot operate	62	48	71	63

75% of Americans think it is at least somewhat likely that the economy and the stock market will take a severe downturn due to the shutdown, including a third who thinks this is very likely.

**Likelihood the Economy & Stock Market Will Take a Severe Downturn due to Shutdown**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind
Very	34%	34%	38%	30%
Somewhat	41	37	45	42
Not very	23	28	15	25

50% of Americans think they will not be personally affected by the cutback in government services or programs caused by the shutdown, but nearly as many, 47%, expect they will be.

**Will You be Personally Affected by the Shutdown?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind
Yes	47%	37%	50%	51%
No	50	61	46	46

**The Next Budget Deadline: Raising the Debt Ceiling**

Even as the budget battle rages on, the Treasury Department has laid down another deadline in two weeks – a default on the government's debts unless the federal debt ceiling is raised on or before October 17<sup>th</sup>. A large majority of Americans – 77% - thinks it's more acceptable to reach an agreement on the debt ceiling that they don't fully support rather than have the U.S. go into defaults on its debts.

**Which would be More Acceptable Concerning the Debt Ceiling?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Agreement you don't fully support	77%	74%	84%	74%
U.S. defaulting on its debts	17	19	11	19

But Americans are divided as to whether such an agreement is likely to happen. 47% think an agreement on raising the debt ceiling will probably be reached before the October 17<sup>th</sup> deadline, while 46% think that probably won't happen.

**Will There be an Agreement to Raise the Debt Ceiling?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Probably	47%	47%	49%	46%
Probably not	46	50	42	47

Most Americans - 55% - think the debt ceiling should be raised along with spending cuts, while 23% think it should be raised without any spending conditions, and 20% think it should not be raised at all.

### The Debt Ceiling Should Be....

	Now		Last week		1/2013
Raised with spending cuts	55%		55%		60%
Raised without conditions		23		17	17
Not raised at all	20		24		18

But a majority does not think raising the debt ceiling should be tied to defunding the Affordable Care Act. 26% of Americans think any agreement should also cut off funding for the law, but far more, 69%, think any agreement on raising the debt ceiling should be kept separate.

### Agreement on Debt Ceiling Should ...

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Cut off health care funding	26%	50%	12%	22%
Be separate from health care funding	69	43	82	75

### Views of the Affordable Care Act

Most Americans (51%) continue to disapprove of the Affordable Care Act --including 40% who strongly disapprove. But 43% now approve, matching a previous high for the law reached in May 2010. Still, more Americans have disapproved than approved of the law since it was passed in 2010.

### View of the Health Care Law

	Now	Last week	7/2013	5/2010	9/2010	3/2010
Approve	43%	39%	36%	43%	37%	32%
Disapprove	51	51	54	47	49	53
Don't know	6	10	10	10	14	15

43% of Americans think the health care law goes too far, while 31% think it is about right, and 20% think it doesn't go far enough. One in 10 who disapprove of the law do so because they don't think it goes far enough.

### How Far Does Health Care Law go in Changing the Health Care System?

	Total	View of Health Care Law	
		Approve	Disapprove
Too far	43%	5%	77%
About right	31	59	10
Not far enough	20	33	10

Polling was conducted over the first two days that the new health insurance exchanges were open under the Affordable Care Act. After two days, 63% of Americans are aware that people can currently sign up for health insurance through the exchanges, while 22% are not. 45% of those who are uninsured know that the exchanges are now open.

### The Tea Party

Some lawmakers associated with the Tea Party have strongly opposed any resolution that does not defund or delay the 2010 health care law. Just 15% of Republicans think the Tea Party has too much influence in their party, while 41% say the Tea Party has the right amount of influence, and 30% think it has too little.

**Influence of the Tea Party in the Republican Party?**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Too much	37%	15%	58%	34%
Right amount	25	41	13	26
Too little	20	30	10	22

Overall, Americans hold net negative views of the Tea Party movement – opinions that have not changed much since early last year. Half of Americans are undecided or haven't heard enough about the Tea Party to hold an opinion. Republicans hold more positive views of the Tea Party than Democrats and independents do.

**Views of the Tea Party**

	Now	1/2012
Favorable	18%	22%
Not favorable	29	30
Undecided/ Haven't heard enough	51	47

21% of Americans in this poll consider themselves supporters of the Tea party movement – a figure that has mostly hovered around this level since early 2010. Support reached a high of 31% in November 2010, just after the midterm elections, and a low of 18% occurring a few times, including February 2010 and this past June.

**Are You a Tea Party Supporter?**

	Now	9/25/2013	6/2013	9/2012	11/2010	2/2010
Yes	21%	25%	18%	22%	31%	18%
No	67	66	66	68	58	39

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This poll was conducted by telephone October 1-2, 2013 among 1,021 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by Social Science Research Solutions of Media, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS NEWS POLL****Americans Disapprove of Shutdown, Express Anger at Washington****October 1-2 2013**

Q1. Which comes closest to your feelings about the way things are going in Washington - are you enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	<b>TOTAL RESPONDENTS</b>					Mar13b %
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %		
Enthusiastic	2	3	3	1		2
Satisfied but not enthusiastic		8	9	7	8	16
Dissatisfied but not angry	44	39	45	47		50
Angry	43	48	41	41		30
Don't know/No Answer		3	2	4	3	2

Q2 . Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress are handling the current negotiations over the federal budget?

Approve	35	7	67	27	
Disapprove	61	91	29	68	
Don't know/No Answer		4	2	4	5

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling the current negotiations over the federal budget?

Approve	24	54	5	20	
Disapprove	72	41	94	75	
Don't know/No Answer		4	5	2	5

Q4. In negotiations about the federal budget, which do you think Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress should do -- compromise some of their positions in order to come to an agreement, or stick to their positions even if it means not coming to an agreement?

Compromise	76	90	61	80	
Stick to positions	21	6	36	18	
Depends (vol.)		1	1	1	1
Don't know/No Answer		2	3	2	2

Q5. In negotiations about the federal budget, which do you think the Republicans in Congress should do -- compromise some of their positions in order to come to an agreement, or stick to their positions even if it means not coming to an agreement?

Compromise	78	59	94	78	
Stick to positions	18	38	4	16	
Depends (vol.)		1	*	1	1
Don't know/No Answer		3	3	1	5

Q6. These days, when Republicans in Congress oppose policies proposed by Barack Obama and the Democrats, is it mostly because of a disagreement about policy or is it mostly because they want to stop Barack Obama and the Democrats from gaining political advantage?

**TOTAL RESPONDENTS**

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %		Jul13b %
Disagreement		32	60	11	31	28
Stop political advantage		61	33	84	61	64
Don't know/ No answer		7	8	4	8	8

Q7. These days, when Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress oppose policies proposed by the Republicans, is it mostly because of a disagreement about policy or is it mostly because they want to stop the Republicans from gaining political advantage?

Disagreement	43	24	63	39	39
Stop political advantage	47	70	29	48	52
Don't know/ No answer	9	7	8	12	9

Q8. From what you've heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of the health care law that was enacted in 2010?

					Sep13d
Strongly approve	21	3	40	16	17
Somewhat approve	22	6	31	24	22
Somewhat disapprove		11	11	10	13
Strongly disapprove		40	77	11	41
Don't know/ No answer		6	3	9	7
					17
					34
					10

Q9. Does the 2010 health care law go too far in changing the U.S. health care system, not far enough, or is it about right?

					May12b
Too far	43	75	17	42	37
Not far enough		20	7	27	24
About right	31	14	48	29	25
Don't know/No Answer		6	4	8	5
					11

Q9a. As far as you know, can people currently sign up for health insurance through the 2010 health care law, or hasn't that begun yet?

Yes, people can sign up	63	63	65	62
No, the 2010 HC law hasn't begun	22	24	22	19
Don't know/No Answer	15	13	13	19



Q10. As you may know the federal government was partially shut down when Barack Obama, the Democrats in Congress, and the Republicans in Congress could not agree on a resolution to keep the government running. How closely have you been following news about the partial government shutdown - very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	<b>TOTAL RESPONDENTS</b>				
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	
Very closely	33	33	36	31	
Somewhat closely	43	41	42	45	
Not too closely		18	21	16	16
Not at all closely	6	5	5	8	
Don't know/No Answer		*	*	*	*

Q11. Do you approve or disapprove of partially shutting down the government over differences about the 2010 health care law?

Approve	25	48	12	21	
Disapprove	72	49	86	76	
Don't know/No Answer		3	3	2	3

Q12. Who do you blame more for the partial government shutdown -- the Republicans in Congress or Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress?

Republicans in Congress		44	10	76	40
Barack Obama & Democrats		35	73	9	30
Both equally (vol.)	17	15	11	24	
Don't know/No Answer		4	2	3	7

Q13. From what you know so far, do you think any agreement on the federal budget should also cut off the funding for the 2010 health care law, or any agreement on the federal budget should be kept separate from discussions about funding the 2010 health care law?

Cut the funding of the health care law	26	52	9	24
Agreement should be kept separate	66	40	81	70
Don't know/No answer		8	7	11

Q14. Which do you think should be the higher priority for Congress right now - passing a resolution to get the federal government running again or stopping some provisions of the 2010 health care law from going into effect?

Get government running again		73	46	90	77
Stop health care law		21	47	6	17
Both (vol.)	2	3	2	2	
Don't know/No answer		4	4	2	4

Q15. Do you think the federal government can operate effectively during a partial shutdown, or not?

	<b>TOTAL RESPONDENTS</b>					Jan96a
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %		
Yes, can operate	35	48	25	35		37
No, cannot operate	62	48	71	63		60
Don't know/No answer		3	4	4	2	3

Q16. Do you think you will be personally affected by the cutback in government services or programs caused by a partial government shutdown, or not?

Yes	47	37	50	51	
No	50	61	46	46	
Don't know/No answer		3	2	4	3

Q17. How likely do you think it will be that the economy and the stock market will take a severe downturn due to the partial government shutdown -- very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

Very likely	34	34	38	30	
Somewhat likely	41	37	45	42	
Not very likely		23	28	15	25
Don't know/No answer		2	1	2	3

Q18. Do you think Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress will be able to negotiate with the Republicans in Congress to resolve the budget standoff in the near future, or do you think the budget standoff will continue for a long time?

Negotiate near future		51	47	62	46
Long time	42	47	33	46	
Don't know/No answer		6	6	5	8

Q19. In the current budget debate, who do you think is more concerned about doing what is best for you and your family --- the Republicans in Congress or Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress?

Republicans in Congress		37	81	7	34
B.O. & the Democrats in Congress		48	8	87	43
Both (vol.)	3	4	1	4	
Neither (vol.)		9	7	4	15
Don't know/No answer		2	1	2	4

Q20. As you may know, there is a debate in Washington about raising the federal debt ceiling, which is the amount of money that the federal government can borrow to pay its bills. Which Of these comes closest to your feelings about raising the debt ceiling now? 1. It should be raised without conditions, because the government must pay its existing bills and obligations; OR 2. It should be raised, but only with the condition that the government also cuts spending to offset it; OR 3. It should not be raised under any condition even if that means the U.S. could default on its loans and obligations.

	<b>TOTAL RESPONDENTS</b>						
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %		Sep13d %	
Raised without conditions	23	9	38	18		17	
Raised with spending cuts		55	58	47	59		55
Not raised	20	30	11	21		24	
Don't know/No answer		2	3	2	2		4

Q21. If you had to choose, which would be more acceptable to you; reaching an agreement on the debt ceiling that you did not fully support, or not reaching an agreement on the debt ceiling and having the U.S. go into default on its debts?

Agreement don't fully support		77	74	84	74		69
U.S. defaulting on its debt	17	19	11	19		21	
Don't know/No answer		6	7	5	7		9

Q22. Do you think Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress probably will or probably will not reach an agreement with the Republicans in Congress on raising the debt ceiling before the October 17th deadline?

Probably will	47	47	49	46	
Probably will not	46	50	42	47	
Don't know/No answer		7	4	9	7

Q22A. From what you know so far, do you think any agreement on raising the debt ceiling should also cut off the funding for the 2010 health care law, or any agreement on raising the debt ceiling should be kept separate from discussions about funding the 2010 health care law?

Stop funding health care law	26	50	12	22	
Debt ceiling separate from health care	69	43	82	75	
Don't know/No answer		5	7	6	4

Q23. Is your opinion of the Tea Party movement favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about the Tea Party movement yet to have an opinion?

						Jan12b	
Favorable	18	39	3	18		22	
Not favorable		29	10	47	26		30
Undecided	17	20	9	21		22	
Haven't heard enough		34	29	40	32		25
Don't know/No answer		2	2	1	3		1

Q24. Do you think the Tea Party has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence in the Republican Party today?

	<b>TOTAL RESPONDENTS</b>					Sep11a %
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %		
Too much	37	15	58	34		31
Too little	20	30	10	22		11
Right amount		25	41	13	26	31
Don't know/No answer		17	13	19	19	27

>tea< Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

					Sep13d %
Yes	21	47	5	18	25
No	67	38	81	73	66
Don't know/No answer	12	15	13	9	9

	<b><u>Unweighted</u></b>	<b><u>Weighted</u></b>
Total respondents	1021	
Total Republicans	294	272
Total Democrats	356	344
Total independents	371	406