

THE TARRANCE GROUP

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2013
TO: PUBLIC NOTICE
FROM: THE TARRANCE GROUP
RE: FINDINGS FROM SURVEY OF VOTERS NATIONWIDE

MOOD OF THE COUNTRY

Voters throughout the country are highly negative toward the direction of the country and President Obama. Current events, especially Obamacare, are leading voters to also hold a negative view toward the government's ability to effectively tackle big problems.

- Two thirds (66%) say the country is on the wrong track, while just 26% say things are headed in the right direction.
- A majority (52%) disapprove of the job President Obama is doing, while 43% approve. President Obama suffers from a large intensity gap, as 43% *strongly* disapprove, while just 26% *strongly* approve. A majority (53%) of Independents disapprove, while 28% approve.
- Obamacare has clearly impacted the way voters see government functioning. Two thirds (66%) agree that **"the failures of Obamacare prove that the federal government shouldn't rush into any more big expensive projects,"** while just 30% disagree. This high level of agreement includes three quarters (74%) of Independents and two thirds (65%) of women.*

VIEWS ON SPENDING

Voters continue to support cuts to federal government spending, whether through keeping the Budget Control Act in place, or enacting cuts along with an increase in the debt ceiling. **A bipartisan majority (65%) firmly disagree that "there are no more cuts to make"** to federal spending:

When it comes to federal spending, do you agree or disagree that "there are no more cuts to make"?			
	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
All voters	26%	9%	65%
Republican	16%	6%	78%
Independent	25%	16%	59%
Democrat	36%	10%	55%
Men	26%	5%	70%
Women	26%	13%	60%

- Seven in ten (71%) voters say they are more likely to re-elect their Member of Congress if he or she voted to reduce spending. Just 19% are less likely. This includes a majority of key voter groups like Independents (54%) and women (71%).*

- A majority (58%) of voters support keeping the bipartisan spending limits put in place from the Budget Control Act. Just 28% support abandoning the 2011 agreement and agreeing to a combination of spending and tax increases. Republicans, Independents, and Democrats are all prefer keeping the limits in place over getting rid of them.
- If the debt limit is going to be raised, then voters support cuts alongside any increase. Six in ten (61%) agree if Congress increases the debt limit, then they should also cut spending. Just 23% support keeping spending levels the same, and 8% support increasing spending.
- Eight in ten (79%) support more transparency in federal spending by supporting legislation that would require the federal government to put all of its spending records online. Just 15% oppose this. This includes widespread support among Independents (78%), Democrats (74%), young voters (85%), and women (75%).

* These questions were asked of half the sample.

This survey was conducted among N=803 registered voters throughout the country between December 1-5, 2013. Interviews were conducted by live interviewers, with 75% of the interviews coming from respondents on landline phones, and 25% from respondents on cell phones. The sample was a combination of Random Digit Dial (RDD) and listed sample, obtained by Survey Sampling International (SSI). Interviews were weighted to ensure demographic groups were fully represented in the final data.