

# Bloomberg News National Poll

SELZER & COMPANY  
1,001 general population 18+  
Margin of error: ± 3.1 percentage points

Study #2094  
March 7-10, 2014  
Weighted by sex, age and race

## Methodology

**March 14 (Bloomberg)** -- The Bloomberg National Poll, conducted March 7-10 for Bloomberg News by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, IA, is based on interviews with 1,001 U.S. adults ages 18 or older.

Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone telephone numbers. Percentages based on the full sample may have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Responses were weighted by sex, age and race to reflect the general population based on recent census data. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error. Republishing the copyrighted Bloomberg National Poll without credit to Bloomberg News is prohibited.

## Poll Questions

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
30	62	8

Now, I'm going to mention some people and groups in the news recently. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. (Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)

	Net Favorable	Net Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
<b>Barack Obama</b> , president of the United States	49	49	20	29	19	30	2
<b>The Republican Party</b>	37	54	8	29	30	24	9
<b>The Democratic Party</b>	49	43	14	35	22	21	8
<b>Chris Christie</b> , governor of New Jersey	32	38	6	26	24	14	30
<b>Hillary Clinton</b> , former U.S. Secretary of State	56	38	22	34	17	21	6
<b>The Tea Party</b>	29	47	9	20	18	29	24

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing: [ITEM FROM LIST]? (Begin with As president. Rotate all other options.)

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
As president	48	48	4
With the economy	43	53	4
With managing the United States's reputation in the world	44	52	4
With the budget deficit	34	57	9
With health care	40	54	6
With negotiating with the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives	37	51	12
With making people like me feel more economically secure	42	52	6
With immigration	39	47	14
With dealing with the situation in Ukraine	34	41	25

I'm going to mention some aspects of the national economic situation. For each, please tell me if you expect things to be better in the next 12 months, worse, or about the same as the last 12 months. (Rotate list, but overall strength of the economy is always first.)

	Better	Worse	About the Same	Not Sure
Overall strength of the economy	30	22	47	1
Job growth	38	24	37	1
The housing market	42	16	37	5
America's economic standing in the world	19	37	42	2
The size of the national debt	13	59	25	3
Health care costs	21	52	24	3

Are you personally better off or worse off than you were at the beginning of 2009?

Better off	Worse off	About the same (VOL)	Not sure
46	36	17	1

There are two main approaches to stimulating the economy—giving tax breaks and resources to the middle class so they will spend more and boost the economy, or giving tax breaks and resources to higher income earners and corporations so they will invest and create jobs. Which do you think would do the most good for the economy? (Rotate these two options.)

- 65 Giving tax breaks and resources to the middle class so they will spend more and boost the economy
- 25 Giving tax breaks and resources to higher income earners and corporations so they will invest and create jobs
- 10 Not sure

Is your current standard of living higher, lower, or about the same as your parents' standard of living when you were a child?

- 54 Higher
- 21 Lower
- 23 About the same
- 2 Not sure

Would you say the recent growth in the U.S. stock market has made you feel more financially secure, or has it had little or no effect on your personal financial situation?

- 21 More financially secure
- 77 Little or no effect
- 2 Not sure

Which of the following do you think is more responsible for the recent growth in the U.S. stock market? **(Read options. Rotate.)**

- 23 The Obama administration's economic policies
- 56 The strength of the private sector
- 21 Not sure

In thinking about the gap between the rich and everyone else, do you think it would be: **(Read choices. Alternate order every other interview.)**

<b>Better for the government to implement policies designed to shrink that gap</b>	<b>Better for the government to stand aside and let the market operate freely even if the gap gets wider</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
45	43	12

For the following proposals the U.S. Congress is considering, please tell me if you favor or oppose the idea. **(Rotate.)**

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next three years	69	28	3
Extending unemployment benefits beyond the current term of 26 weeks	52	45	3

Do you think your opinion about what should happen with the minimum wage law will or will not affect your decisions about which candidates to vote for in the November 2014 elections for Congress? **(If will affect, ask:)** Do you think it will be a major factor or a minor factor in your vote decisions?

- 26 Yes, major factor
- 23 Yes, minor factor
- 46 No, not a factor
- 5 Not sure

A recent report by the Congressional Budget Office says that raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next three years would increase the incomes of 16.5 million Americans while eliminating 500,000 jobs. Does that tradeoff seem acceptable or unacceptable to you?

- 34 Acceptable
- 57 Unacceptable
- 9 Not sure

When it comes to the quality of health care you receive, please tell me if you are better off, worse off, or about the same as last year at this time.

<b>Better off</b>	<b>Worse off</b>	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Does not apply (VOL)</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
13	19	67	-	1

Are you more worried or less worried than you were a year or so ago about the possibility you could lose access to health insurance or health care?

- 38 More worried
- 41 Less worried
- 16 About the same (VOL)
- 5 Not sure

What is your opinion of the health care law? **(Read list.)**

<b>It should be repealed</b>	<b>It may need small modifications, but we should see how it works</b>	<b>It should be left alone</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
34	51	13	2

Do you think candidates' opinions about the health care law will or will not affect your decisions about which candidates to vote for in the November 2014 elections for Congress? **(If will affect, ask:)** Do you think it will be a major factor or a minor factor in your vote decisions?

- 52 Yes, major factor
- 20 Yes, minor factor
- 24 No, not a factor
- 4 Not sure

You might have different opinions about specific elements of the law. For each of the following provisions, please tell me if you think it should be kept or repealed. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

	<b>Kept</b>	<b>Repealed</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Eliminates lifetime caps on how much insurance companies must pay for a person's health care	53	38	9
Prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions	65	31	4
Allows children up to age 26 to remain on their parents' policies	73	25	2
Mandates everyone to have health insurance	47	51	2

**Rotate next two questions.**

Do you personally know anyone who has been helped by the health care law? **(If yes, ask:)** Do you know many, a few, or just one or two people who have been helped?

- 8 Yes, many
- 11 Yes, a few
- 12 Yes, just one or two
- 68 No
- 1 Not sure

Do you personally know anyone who has been hurt by the health care law? **(If yes, ask:)** Do you know many, a few, or just one or two people who have been hurt?

- 15 Yes, many
- 15 Yes, a few
- 9 Yes, just one or two
- 60 No
- 1 Not sure

**(Asked only of those who self-identify as Republican or Democrat.)** How satisfied would you say you are with the quality of the candidates the [REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRATIC] party is nominating for president and members of Congress—very satisfied, mostly satisfied, mostly unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied?

	Very satisfied	Mostly satisfied	Mostly unsatisfied	Very unsatisfied	Not Sure
Reps (n=240)	7	47	27	9	10
Dems (n=267)	14	67	7	2	10

Which of the following is a more attractive candidate for Congress to you: **(Read list. Alternate every other interview.)**

A candidate who will remain true to their principles and will confront both members of their own party as well as the opposing party, even if it means fewer bills get passed	A candidate who is committed to getting things done even if it means working out a deal through legislative compromise	Not sure
43	50	7

In your view, is the Tea Party today a mostly positive or mostly negative force in American politics?

Mostly positive	Mostly negative	Not sure
29	53	18

Would you be more likely or less likely to support a particular candidate if he or she has the endorsement of the Tea Party, or would it not matter?

More likely	Less likely	Would not matter	Not sure
10	25	61	4

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups are spending money in primaries to defend their Republican allies in Congress against Tea Party-backed rivals. Do you like this approach or not?

Like this approach	Do not like this approach	Not sure
25	53	22

I'm going to mention two people who may be considering running for president in 2016. For each, please tell me if you want the person to run, do NOT want the person to run, or if this does not matter to you. **(Rotate list.)**

	Want to run	Do not want to run	Does not matter	Not Sure
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	50	32	17	1
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	25	34	37	4

If the presidential election were held today and the candidates were [Chris Christie for the Republicans] and [Hillary Clinton for the Democrats], for whom would you vote? **(Rotate candidates.)**

All	Likely voters (n=678)	
32	39	Chris Christie
55	52	Hillary Clinton
7	5	Someone else (VOL)
6	4	Not sure

In New Jersey last year, some of Governor Chris Christie's top aides planned and implemented lane closures on the George Washington Bridge as retaliation against a local mayor who did not endorse Governor Christie's re-election bid. Governor Christie has said he knew nothing of this plan until he read it in the newspaper. Are you inclined to believe him or not believe him?

- 26 Believe him
- 63 Not believe him
- 11 Not sure

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said she never saw requests for more security before the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans. Are you inclined to believe her or not believe her?

- 41 Believe her
- 51 Not believe her
- 8 Not sure

Within the last couple of months, two male athletes announced they are gay, a first for a professional basketball player and for a player expecting to be drafted by a National Football League team. Which of the following better fits your view of this: **(Read and rotate.)**

- 40 This is an advancement because gay athletes shouldn't have to hide their sexuality
- 13 This is unfortunate because it mixes a controversial political issue with sports
- 45 I do not care much about this kind of thing one way or the other
- 2 Not sure

Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to get married?

- | <b>Support</b> | <b>Oppose</b> | <b>Not sure</b> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 55             | 36            | 9               |

All things being equal, would you rather live in a state that makes it [easy] or [difficult] for gay and lesbian couples to marry, or does it not matter much to you? **(Rotate easy/difficult.)**

- 30 Makes it easy
- 18 Makes it difficult
- 50 Does not matter
- 2 Not sure

If the 2016 general election for President, Congress and other state officials were held today, would you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

- 64 Definitely vote
- 18 Probably vote
- 7 Might or might not vote
- 9 Probably not vote
- 2 Refused/not sure