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Republicans More Likely To Subscribe to Government Conspiracy Theories

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP’s latest round of conspiracy-theory related questions finds that Republicans are more likely than Democrats to believe various government-related conspiracy theories, similar to results we found on our first round of conspiracy polling last April. Overall, 36% of Americans and 62% of Republicans believe that the Obama Administration is secretly trying to take everyone’s guns away; just 14% of Democrats believe the same. One in four Americans say that President Obama is secretly trying to figure out a way to stay in office beyond 2017 – including almost half of Republicans (44%). And 26% of Americans think that Muslims are covertly implementing Sharia Law in American court systems, while 55% don’t think so and another 19% aren’t sure. There’s a huge partisan breakdown on this one as well – 42% of Republicans fear Sharia Law making its way into America’s courts while just 12% of Democrats agree.

13% believe that the U.S. government engages in so-called “false flag” operations, where the government plans and executes terrorist or mass shooting events and blames those actions on others, 70% disagree. Republicans (21%) are more than twice as likely as Democrats (9%) to believe this theory. 19% say there is a secret society such as Skull and Bones that produces America’s political and financial leaders to serve the wealthy elite. And 17% of voters said they think a group of world bankers are slowly eliminating paper currency to force most banking online – only to cut the power grid so regular citizens can’t access money and are forced into worldwide slavery. Nearly one in three Republicans (27%) believe the electronic currency theory while just 10% of Democrats agree.

We asked voters whether they thought the government has engaged in the assassination of entertainers such as John Lennon and Tupac Shakur and political leaders such as Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. whose message they didn’t like. Voters were nearly twice as likely to think the government killed political leaders to silence them (23% yes, 61% no) than entertainers (12% yes, 72% no.)

One of the most widely-believed theories involved the rigging of professional sporting events. 32% said they think major sporting events such as the NBA playoffs or the Super Bowl are sometimes rigged by league offices and referees to increase ratings and revenue for the sports, just 49% said they were certain this doesn’t happen, and 19% aren’t sure. One topic that united most Americans was the issue of extraterrestrial life. Three out of four participants answered that the government does not harbor a ‘Men in Black’ organization to keep humans from discovering alien life; compared to just 6% who did. And only 3% of those polled believe that the US has been conspiring with aliens for technology advancements.

PPP surveyed 790 registered voters on September 25th and 26th. The margin of error is +/-3.5%. This poll was not authorized or paid for by any campaign or political organization.



National Survey Results

Q1 Do you think the Obama Administration is secretly trying to take everyone's guns away, or not?

Yes..... 36%
 No..... 54%
 Not sure 10%

Q2 Do you think the U.S. government engages in so-called "false flag" operations, meaning that the government sometimes plans and executes mass shootings or terrorist events, and then makes it look like those activities were carried out by others, or not?

Yes..... 13%
 No..... 70%
 Not sure 17%

Q3 Do you think there is a secret society such as Skull and Bones that produces most of America's political and financial leaders to serve the interests of the wealthy elite, or not?

Yes..... 19%
 No..... 50%
 Not sure 31%

Q4 Do you think that a government organization such as the Men in Black exists to stop people from finding out that aliens do exist and live among humans on Earth, or not?

Yes..... 6%
 No..... 75%
 Not sure 19%

Q5 Do you think the U.S. government has engaged in the assassination of entertainers who have tried to spread a counterculture message they didn't like, such as John Lennon, Kurt Cobain, Tupac Shakur, and others, or not?

Yes..... 12%
 No..... 72%
 Not sure 16%

Q6 Do you think the U.S. government has engaged in the assassination of political leaders who tried to spread a political message they didn't like, such as Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, or not?

Yes..... 23%
 No..... 61%
 Not sure 16%

Q7 Do you think it's easy to have a person killed and get away with it if you have enough money, or not?

Yes..... 54%
 No..... 27%
 Not sure 18%

Q8 Do you think that major sporting events like the NBA playoffs or the Super Bowl are sometimes rigged by referees and league offices to create an outcome that will lead to better ratings and more money and publicity for the sport, or not?

Yes..... 32%
 No..... 49%
 Not sure 19%





Q9 Do you think that a group of world bankers is slowly eliminating paper currency until most banking is done electronically, and then will cut the power grid so that most citizens will not have access to any money and will be forced into worldwide slavery, or not?

Yes..... 17%
 No..... 65%
 Not sure..... 19%

Q10 Do you think the U.S. government has a secret fleet of black helicopters that will be used in an eventual United Nations military takeover of the United States, or not?

Yes..... 9%
 No..... 71%
 Not sure..... 20%

Q11 Do you think Barack Obama is secretly trying to figure out a way to stay in office beyond 2017, or not?

Yes..... 25%
 No..... 66%
 Not sure..... 9%

Q12 Do you think the U.S. government has secretly allowed aliens to take over our society in exchange for help with industrial technological advances, such as electric power and the microwave, or not?

Yes..... 3%
 No..... 86%
 Not sure..... 10%

Q13 Do you think Muslims are covertly implementing Sharia Law in American court systems, or not?

Yes..... 26%
 No..... 55%
 Not sure..... 19%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 12%
 Somewhat liberal..... 16%
 Moderate..... 33%
 Somewhat conservative..... 19%
 Very conservative..... 20%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman..... 52%
 Man..... 48%

Q16 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 39%
 Republican..... 34%
 Independent/Other..... 27%

Q17 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 10%
 White..... 76%
 African-American..... 10%
 Other..... 3%

Q18 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45..... 42%
 46 to 65..... 38%
 Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Is Obama Trying to Take Away Guns?						
Yes	36%	11%	11%	25%	55%	74%
No	54%	78%	83%	64%	36%	14%
Not sure	10%	11%	6%	11%	9%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Does Gov't Do False Flag Ops?						
Yes	13%	7%	8%	15%	12%	20%
No	70%	74%	85%	69%	67%	57%
Not sure	17%	19%	7%	16%	21%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Secret Society Produces Leaders to Serve Elite?						
Yes	19%	17%	18%	22%	14%	18%
No	50%	43%	56%	51%	52%	46%
Not sure	31%	41%	26%	27%	33%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
MIB Org. Stops People from Learning Aliens Among Us?						
Yes	6%	2%	10%	9%	3%	4%
No	75%	75%	76%	71%	78%	76%
Not sure	19%	22%	14%	20%	19%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gov't Has Assassinated Counterculture Entertainers?						
Yes	12%	10%	4%	11%	17%	16%
No	72%	73%	85%	74%	67%	63%
Not sure	16%	18%	11%	16%	16%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gov't Has Assassinated MLK, Political Leaders?						
Yes	23%	16%	16%	26%	22%	30%
No	61%	68%	69%	58%	60%	55%
Not sure	16%	16%	15%	16%	17%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Easy to Get Away w/ Murder w/ Enough \$?						
Yes	54%	37%	50%	56%	57%	64%
No	27%	36%	37%	18%	25%	30%
Not sure	18%	26%	13%	26%	18%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sports Rigged?						
Yes	32%	27%	20%	39%	23%	41%
No	49%	49%	53%	47%	54%	44%
Not sure	19%	23%	27%	14%	23%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bankers Eliminating Currency & Cut Power Grid?						
Yes	17%	5%	6%	15%	23%	30%
No	65%	74%	81%	69%	56%	46%
Not sure	19%	22%	13%	16%	21%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Does Gov't Have Black Copters for UN Takeover?						
Yes	9%	-	12%	6%	13%	11%
No	71%	61%	82%	77%	64%	64%
Not sure	20%	39%	6%	17%	23%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Trying to Figure Out How to Stay in Office After 2017?						
Yes	25%	1%	6%	18%	32%	57%
No	66%	82%	90%	76%	58%	30%
Not sure	9%	17%	4%	6%	10%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Has Gov't Allowed Aliens to Take Over?						
Yes	3%	-	6%	2%	3%	5%
No	86%	84%	90%	88%	89%	80%
Not sure	10%	16%	4%	10%	8%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Muslims Implementing Sharia Law?						
Yes	26%	11%	3%	16%	27%	66%
No	55%	76%	79%	66%	45%	17%
Not sure	19%	12%	17%	18%	28%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Is Obama Trying to Take Away Guns?			
Yes	36%	35%	38%
No	54%	53%	55%
Not sure	10%	12%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Does Gov't Do False Flag Ops?			
Yes	13%	14%	12%
No	70%	67%	73%
Not sure	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Secret Society Produces Leaders to Serve Elite?			
Yes	19%	14%	24%
No	50%	43%	59%
Not sure	31%	43%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
MIB Org. Stops People from Learning Aliens Among Us?			
Yes	6%	5%	7%
No	75%	74%	76%
Not sure	19%	21%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gov't Has Assassinated Counterculture Entertainers?			
Yes	12%	7%	18%
No	72%	74%	70%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gov't Has Assassinated MLK, Political Leaders?			
Yes	23%	24%	22%
No	61%	56%	67%
Not sure	16%	20%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Easy to Get Away w/ Murder w/ Enough \$?			
Yes	54%	53%	57%
No	27%	24%	31%
Not sure	18%	24%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sports Rigged?			
Yes	32%	33%	30%
No	49%	45%	54%
Not sure	19%	22%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bankers Eliminating Currency & Cut Power Grid?			
Yes	17%	16%	17%
No	65%	61%	69%
Not sure	19%	23%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Does Gov't Have Black Copters for UN Takeover?			
Yes	9%	11%	7%
No	71%	66%	78%
Not sure	20%	23%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Trying to Figure Out How to Stay in Office After 2017?			
Yes	25%	23%	27%
No	66%	65%	68%
Not sure	9%	12%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Has Gov't Allowed Aliens to Take Over?			
Yes	3%	5%	2%
No	86%	83%	90%
Not sure	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Muslims Implementing Sharia Law?			
Yes	26%	22%	30%
No	55%	54%	57%
Not sure	19%	24%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Is Obama Trying to Take Away Guns?				
Yes	36%	14%	62%	38%
No	54%	77%	27%	53%
Not sure	10%	9%	12%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Does Gov't Do False Flag Ops?				
Yes	13%	9%	21%	10%
No	70%	78%	58%	72%
Not sure	17%	12%	21%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Secret Society Produces Leaders to Serve Elite?				
Yes	19%	20%	15%	20%
No	50%	46%	53%	52%
Not sure	31%	33%	31%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
MIB Org. Stops People from Learning Aliens Among Us?				
Yes	6%	7%	7%	5%
No	75%	76%	74%	74%
Not sure	19%	17%	19%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gov't Has Assassinated Counterculture Entertainers?				
Yes	12%	9%	14%	13%
No	72%	75%	69%	72%
Not sure	16%	15%	17%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gov't Has Assassinated MLK, Political Leaders?				
Yes	23%	23%	27%	19%
No	61%	62%	58%	63%
Not sure	16%	15%	15%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Easy to Get Away w/ Murder w/ Enough \$?				
Yes	54%	52%	59%	52%
No	27%	29%	27%	25%
Not sure	18%	19%	14%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Sports Rigged?				
Yes	32%	27%	34%	35%
No	49%	52%	47%	48%
Not sure	19%	21%	19%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bankers Eliminating Currency & Cut Power Grid?				
Yes	17%	10%	27%	14%
No	65%	71%	61%	60%
Not sure	19%	18%	12%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Does Gov't Have Black Copters for UN Takeover?				
Yes	9%	8%	11%	8%
No	71%	78%	66%	68%
Not sure	20%	14%	23%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Trying to Figure Out How to Stay in Office After 2017?				
Yes	25%	11%	44%	21%
No	66%	83%	46%	67%
Not sure	9%	6%	10%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Has Gov't Allowed Aliens to Take Over?				
Yes	3%	1%	7%	3%
No	86%	89%	81%	89%
Not sure	10%	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Muslims Implementing Sharia Law ?				
Yes	26%	12%	42%	25%
No	55%	71%	36%	57%
Not sure	19%	17%	22%	18%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Is Obama Trying to Take Away Guns ?					
Yes	36%	31%	41%	14%	11%
No	54%	57%	49%	82%	61%
Not sure	10%	12%	10%	4%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Does Gov't Do False Flag Ops?					
Yes	13%	10%	15%	7%	-
No	70%	77%	69%	67%	82%
Not sure	17%	13%	16%	26%	18%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Secret Society Produces Leaders to Serve Elite?					
Yes	19%	20%	18%	21%	12%
No	50%	59%	49%	49%	51%
Not sure	31%	21%	33%	29%	36%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
MIB Org. Stops People from Learning Aliens Among Us?					
Yes	6%	12%	5%	6%	-
No	75%	72%	76%	70%	80%
Not sure	19%	17%	19%	24%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gov't Has Assassinated Counterculture Entertainers?					
Yes	12%	5%	12%	16%	7%
No	72%	87%	71%	62%	84%
Not sure	16%	9%	17%	22%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gov't Has Assassinated MLK, Political Leaders?					
Yes	23%	18%	23%	34%	17%
No	61%	70%	61%	50%	62%
Not sure	16%	12%	16%	17%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Easy to Get Away w/ Murder w/ Enough \$?					
Yes	54%	35%	56%	66%	59%
No	27%	43%	25%	27%	20%
Not sure	18%	23%	19%	7%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Sports Rigged?					
Yes	32%	31%	31%	41%	15%
No	49%	58%	49%	38%	67%
Not sure	19%	10%	21%	20%	18%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Bankers Eliminating Currency & Cut Power Grid?					
Yes	17%	12%	17%	26%	-
No	65%	85%	64%	40%	81%
Not sure	19%	3%	19%	34%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Does Gov't Have Black Copters for UN Takeover?					
Yes	9%	20%	6%	16%	-
No	71%	72%	72%	60%	81%
Not sure	20%	7%	21%	24%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Trying to Figure Out How to Stay in Office After 2017?					
Yes	25%	21%	27%	16%	30%
No	66%	77%	63%	75%	70%
Not sure	9%	2%	10%	9%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Has Gov't Allowed Aliens to Take Over?					
Yes	3%	9%	2%	5%	-
No	86%	86%	88%	78%	81%
Not sure	10%	5%	10%	17%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Muslims Implementing Sharia Law ?					
Yes	26%	19%	29%	17%	15%
No	55%	68%	55%	47%	48%
Not sure	19%	13%	17%	37%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Is Obama Trying to Take Away Guns?				
Yes	36%	37%	33%	39%
No	54%	55%	55%	49%
Not sure	10%	7%	11%	12%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Does Gov't Do False Flag Ops?				
Yes	13%	16%	11%	12%
No	70%	72%	70%	65%
Not sure	17%	13%	18%	23%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Secret Society Produces Leaders to Serve Elite?				
Yes	19%	13%	23%	21%
No	50%	57%	46%	45%
Not sure	31%	30%	31%	35%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
MIB Org. Stops People from Learning Aliens Among Us?				
Yes	6%	7%	6%	6%
No	75%	78%	74%	70%
Not sure	19%	15%	20%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gov't Has Assassinated Counterculture Entertainers?				
Yes	12%	14%	10%	10%
No	72%	79%	68%	67%
Not sure	16%	7%	22%	23%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gov't Has Assassinated MLK, Political Leaders?				
Yes	23%	18%	31%	19%
No	61%	71%	50%	61%
Not sure	16%	11%	19%	20%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Easy to Get Away w/ Murder w/ Enough \$?				
Yes	54%	48%	62%	53%
No	27%	31%	21%	31%
Not sure	18%	21%	17%	16%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sports Rigged?				
Yes	32%	35%	30%	29%
No	49%	50%	48%	49%
Not sure	19%	15%	22%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bankers Eliminating Currency & Cut Power Grid?				
Yes	17%	12%	21%	19%
No	65%	72%	60%	59%
Not sure	19%	16%	20%	22%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Does Gov't Have Black Copters for UN Takeover?				
Yes	9%	6%	13%	6%
No	71%	79%	66%	67%
Not sure	20%	15%	21%	27%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Trying to Figure Out How to Stay in Office After 2017?				
Yes	25%	23%	24%	30%
No	66%	70%	65%	60%
Not sure	9%	6%	11%	10%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Has Gov't Allowed Aliens to Take Over?				
Yes	3%	2%	3%	6%
No	86%	91%	85%	79%
Not sure	10%	7%	11%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Muslims Implementing Sharia Law?				
Yes	26%	20%	28%	33%
No	55%	69%	49%	42%
Not sure	19%	11%	24%	25%

