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Americans' perception of Congress improves, but still poor

Raleigh, N.C. – Amid heated negotiations over raising the debt ceiling, Americans are prepared to be more lenient in their evaluations of Congress; nevertheless, a majority still disapproves. 33% approve of the performance of Democrats in Congress while 54% disapprove (up from 29-60 in June). Republicans rate a similar 33-55 (22-61 in June). Speaker Boehner's ratings have also improved. He garners a 33-37 rating (27-37 in June).

When Americans have to decide which Congress they dislike the least, they give a slight edge to the Democrats. 39% feel the Republicans are doing a better job than the Democrats did while in power to 42% who feel they are doing a worse job. This is a bit tighter than last month when voters felt the GOP was doing a worse job 37-30. Independents in particular are fonder of the Republican Congress, having felt they were worse by a 38-19 margin last month, compared to only 37-36 today. On the generic Congressional ballot, the race is also tight with voters planning to vote Democratic 46-44.

Though Congress is hardly popular, it can take solace in that voters like Rupert Murdoch a whole lot less. With a phone hacking scandal engulfing News Corp, voters don't appear to consider Murdoch an innocent party. Only 12% of voters hold a favorable opinion of Murdoch compared to 49% who view him unfavorably. Unsurprisingly, those who identify as very liberal see Murdoch unfavorably, giving him a 9-60 rating, but even very conservatives don't like Murdoch, rating him 23-27.

Though not the most popular figure PPP has polled, if God exists, voters are prepared to give it good marks. Voters approve of God's performance by 52-9 margin, making God about as popular as Murdoch is unpopular. When asked to evaluate God on some of the issues it is responsible for, voters give God its best rating on creating the universe, 71-5. They also approve of its handling of the animal kingdom 56-11, and even its handling of natural disasters 50-13. Young voters are prepared to be more critical of God on natural disasters with those 18-29 rating it 59-26 compared to 47-12 among those over 65.

PPP surveyed 928 American voters from July 15th to 17th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.2%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



National Survey Results

<p>Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rupert Murdoch?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 12%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> 49%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 39%</p>	<p>Q7 If God exists, do you approve or disapprove of its performance?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 52%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 9%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i>..... 40%</p>
<p>Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job John Boehner is doing?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 33%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 37%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 30%</p>	<p>Q8 If God exists, do you approve or disapprove of its handling of natural disasters?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 50%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 13%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i>..... 37%</p>
<p>Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congressional Democrats are doing?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 33%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 54%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 13%</p>	<p>Q9 If God exists, do you approve or disapprove of its handling of animals?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 56%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 11%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 33%</p>
<p>Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congressional Republicans are doing?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 33%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 55%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 12%</p>	<p>Q10 If God exists, do you approve or disapprove of its handling of creating the universe?</p> <p><i>Approve</i> 71%</p> <p><i>Disapprove</i>..... 5%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 24%</p>
<p>Q5 Do you think the Republicans are doing a better job than the Democrats did while in charge of the House of Representatives, a worse job, or about the same?</p> <p><i>A better job</i> 39%</p> <p><i>A worse job</i> 42%</p> <p><i>About the same</i>..... 18%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 1%</p>	<p>Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?</p> <p><i>John McCain</i>..... 44%</p> <p><i>Barack Obama</i>..... 47%</p> <p><i>Someone else/Don't remember</i> 8%</p>
<p>Q6 If there was an election for Congress today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?</p> <p><i>Democrat</i> 46%</p> <p><i>Republican</i>..... 44%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 10%</p>	<p>Q12 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?</p> <p><i>Very liberal</i>..... 10%</p> <p><i>Somewhat liberal</i> 15%</p> <p><i>Moderate</i>..... 36%</p> <p><i>Somewhat conservative</i>..... 21%</p> <p><i>Very conservative</i> 17%</p>





Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%

Man..... 49%

Q14 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 42%

Republican..... 33%

Independent/Other..... 25%

Q15 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 10%

White 70%

African-American 12%

Other..... 7%

Q16 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 8%

30 to 45..... 22%

46 to 65..... 48%

Older than 65..... 22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Murdoch Favorability				
Favorable	12%	20%	4%	12%
Unfavorable	49%	31%	68%	41%
Not sure	39%	49%	28%	47%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Boehner Approval				
Approve	33%	56%	13%	22%
Disapprove	37%	13%	57%	43%
Not sure	30%	31%	29%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cong. Dem Approval				
Approve	33%	9%	57%	18%
Disapprove	54%	85%	26%	58%
Not sure	13%	6%	17%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cong. GOP Approval				
Approve	33%	63%	7%	25%
Disapprove	55%	24%	86%	48%
Not sure	12%	13%	8%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems?				
A better job	39%	76%	5%	34%
A worse job	42%	11%	75%	17%
About the same	18%	13%	18%	44%
Not sure	1%	0%	1%	6%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democrat	46%	10%	82%	27%
Republican	44%	82%	9%	49%
Not sure	10%	8%	9%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
God Approval				
Approve	52%	56%	48%	45%
Disapprove	9%	7%	11%	6%
Not sure	40%	36%	41%	48%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
God Nat. Disasters Approval				
Approve	50%	56%	44%	48%
Disapprove	13%	11%	15%	16%
Not sure	37%	33%	40%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
God Animals Approval				
Approve	56%	64%	47%	62%
Disapprove	11%	8%	14%	14%
Not sure	33%	28%	39%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
God Creation Approval				
Approve	71%	81%	62%	68%
Disapprove	5%	3%	6%	4%
Not sure	24%	16%	31%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Murdoch Favorability						
Favorable	12%	9%	7%	8%	14%	23%
Unfavorable	49%	60%	65%	58%	35%	27%
Not sure	39%	31%	28%	34%	51%	49%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Boehner Approval						
Approve	33%	18%	13%	22%	50%	62%
Disapprove	37%	58%	62%	42%	19%	12%
Not sure	30%	24%	25%	36%	31%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cong. Dem Approval						
Approve	33%	72%	49%	38%	13%	9%
Disapprove	54%	14%	33%	44%	80%	89%
Not sure	13%	14%	18%	19%	7%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cong. GOP Approval						
Approve	33%	15%	10%	19%	53%	71%
Disapprove	55%	77%	80%	67%	33%	21%
Not sure	12%	8%	10%	13%	14%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems?						
A better job	39%	11%	8%	23%	68%	84%
A worse job	42%	75%	74%	50%	18%	7%
About the same	18%	12%	17%	26%	14%	9%
Not sure	1%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Cong. Ballot						
Democrat	46%	83%	78%	56%	19%	7%
Republican	44%	12%	14%	28%	74%	89%
Not sure	10%	5%	8%	16%	7%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
God Approval						
Approve	52%	54%	40%	48%	57%	61%
Disapprove	9%	18%	14%	8%	5%	4%
Not sure	40%	27%	46%	44%	38%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
God Nat. Disasters Approval						
Approve	50%	49%	41%	45%	55%	62%
Disapprove	13%	27%	17%	11%	11%	9%
Not sure	37%	23%	41%	44%	35%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
God Animals Approval						
Approve	56%	53%	41%	53%	62%	69%
Disapprove	11%	29%	12%	9%	8%	8%
Not sure	33%	17%	47%	38%	31%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
God Creation Approval						
Approve	71%	67%	57%	67%	78%	85%
Disapprove	5%	15%	4%	4%	4%	1%
Not sure	24%	18%	38%	29%	18%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murdoch Favorability			
Favorable	12%	7%	17%
Unfavorable	49%	48%	50%
Not sure	39%	44%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Boehner Approval			
Approve	33%	28%	38%
Disapprove	37%	37%	37%
Not sure	30%	35%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cong. Dem Approval			
Approve	33%	39%	26%
Disapprove	54%	44%	65%
Not sure	13%	16%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cong. GOP Approval			
Approve	33%	29%	38%
Disapprove	55%	57%	54%
Not sure	12%	15%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems?			
A better job	39%	34%	45%
A worse job	42%	46%	38%
About the same	18%	19%	17%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Cong. Ballot			
Democrat	46%	53%	38%
Republican	44%	37%	52%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
God Approval			
Approve	52%	55%	48%
Disapprove	9%	8%	10%
Not sure	40%	38%	41%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
God Nat. Disasters Approval			
Approve	50%	54%	45%
Disapprove	13%	11%	16%
Not sure	37%	35%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
God Animals Approval			
Approve	56%	56%	56%
Disapprove	11%	11%	11%
Not sure	33%	32%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
God Creation Approval			
Approve	71%	72%	70%
Disapprove	5%	4%	5%
Not sure	24%	24%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murdoch Favorability				
Favorable	12%	5%	18%	15%
Unfavorable	49%	62%	33%	49%
Not sure	39%	33%	49%	36%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Boehner Approval				
Approve	33%	15%	55%	34%
Disapprove	37%	54%	15%	37%
Not sure	30%	31%	30%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cong. Dem Approval				
Approve	33%	59%	5%	26%
Disapprove	54%	22%	90%	62%
Not sure	13%	19%	5%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cong. GOP Approval				
Approve	33%	11%	65%	27%
Disapprove	55%	78%	22%	60%
Not sure	12%	10%	13%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems?				
A better job	39%	9%	80%	36%
A worse job	42%	71%	9%	37%
About the same	18%	19%	11%	25%
Not sure	1%	2%	0%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democrat	46%	82%	9%	33%
Republican	44%	11%	88%	41%
Not sure	10%	6%	2%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
God Approval				
Approve	52%	50%	58%	46%
Disapprove	9%	11%	7%	8%
Not sure	40%	39%	35%	46%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
God Nat. Disasters Approval				
Approve	50%	49%	55%	44%
Disapprove	13%	14%	11%	15%
Not sure	37%	36%	34%	41%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
God Animals Approval				
Approve	56%	53%	62%	54%
Disapprove	11%	13%	9%	11%
Not sure	33%	34%	29%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
God Creation Approval				
Approve	71%	66%	80%	67%
Disapprove	5%	6%	3%	4%
Not sure	24%	28%	17%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Murdoch Favorability					
Favorable	12%	14%	12%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	49%	56%	47%	53%	54%
Not sure	39%	29%	41%	38%	35%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Boehner Approval					
Approve	33%	30%	37%	16%	29%
Disapprove	37%	43%	34%	48%	37%
Not sure	30%	27%	29%	36%	34%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cong. Dem Approval					
Approve	33%	38%	27%	60%	34%
Disapprove	54%	46%	62%	26%	44%
Not sure	13%	16%	11%	14%	22%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cong. GOP Approval					
Approve	33%	31%	38%	12%	21%
Disapprove	55%	58%	49%	81%	69%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems?					
A better job	39%	38%	45%	11%	29%
A worse job	42%	42%	36%	73%	52%
About the same	18%	21%	18%	16%	14%
Not sure	1%	-	1%	-	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democrat	46%	51%	38%	76%	60%
Republican	44%	43%	51%	14%	27%
Not sure	10%	7%	10%	10%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
God Approval					
Approve	52%	53%	47%	72%	59%
Disapprove	9%	10%	10%	2%	7%
Not sure	40%	37%	43%	27%	34%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
God Nat. Disasters Approval					
Approve	50%	40%	47%	74%	52%
Disapprove	13%	25%	14%	3%	7%
Not sure	37%	35%	39%	23%	41%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
God Animals Approval					
Approve	56%	56%	53%	74%	50%
Disapprove	11%	14%	12%	4%	14%
Not sure	33%	30%	35%	22%	36%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
God Creation Approval					
Approve	71%	72%	69%	90%	61%
Disapprove	5%	4%	5%	2%	8%
Not sure	24%	24%	26%	8%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murdoch Favorability					
Favorable	12%	10%	13%	12%	12%
Unfavorable	49%	59%	49%	49%	47%
Not sure	39%	32%	38%	40%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Boehner Approval					
Approve	33%	34%	25%	34%	38%
Disapprove	37%	39%	35%	37%	38%
Not sure	30%	27%	40%	29%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cong. Dem Approval					
Approve	33%	41%	26%	34%	34%
Disapprove	54%	51%	56%	54%	57%
Not sure	13%	7%	18%	12%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cong. GOP Approval					
Approve	33%	34%	27%	34%	36%
Disapprove	55%	54%	59%	55%	52%
Not sure	12%	12%	13%	11%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems?					
A better job	39%	27%	40%	39%	44%
A worse job	42%	46%	36%	44%	41%
About the same	18%	27%	22%	16%	14%
Not sure	1%	-	3%	0%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democrat	46%	61%	41%	46%	44%
Republican	44%	29%	46%	43%	50%
Not sure	10%	10%	13%	11%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
God Approval					
Approve	52%	67%	61%	50%	40%
Disapprove	9%	18%	7%	9%	6%
Not sure	40%	15%	32%	41%	54%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
God Nat. Disasters Approval					
Approve	50%	59%	48%	51%	47%
Disapprove	13%	26%	14%	11%	12%
Not sure	37%	15%	39%	38%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
God Animals Approval					
Approve	56%	68%	58%	55%	50%
Disapprove	11%	18%	13%	10%	9%
Not sure	33%	13%	29%	35%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
God Creation Approval					
Approve	71%	86%	72%	69%	68%
Disapprove	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%
Not sure	24%	8%	23%	27%	27%

