



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2011

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Americans have dim view of Congress, GOP leadership

Raleigh, N.C. – Just a few months after giving them a majority in the U.S. House, American voters are having second thoughts about the Republican congressional leadership. 43% think John Boehner and company are doing a worse job than Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats did when they were in charge. 36% think the GOP leaders are doing a better job, and 19% say they have been about the same. Independents say by a 44-30 margin that Republicans have been doing worse. Further, 48% trust President Obama more to lead the country in the right direction, while 42% have more faith in the GOP. The sentiment with independents is 49-37 for Obama.

As a consequence, if an election were held today, Americans would vote for the Democrat in their district by a 46-41 margin. The two parties are polarized, but independents split the tie, siding 42-33 with the Democrats after voting heavily for the GOP last year.

Americans also see the Democratic Party as being more mainstream (46%) than extremist (39%). Their opinion of the GOP is almost the opposite: 40% see that party as mainstream, and 48% as extremist. Independents say by a 49-33 margin that the GOP is extremist and by a 49-36 margin that the Democrats are mainstream.

“The conventional wisdom is that Democrats will have a very hard time winning back control of the House next year,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But that may be wrong- voters have soured on the new Republican majority in record time.”

Americans of all stripes think their representatives and senators should earn far less money than they currently do. A 41% plurality, including 47% of independents, 40% of Republicans, and 37% of Democrats, think congressmen should make between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year, not much more than the median household income of about \$45,000. Only 7% of American voters think congressmen should bank what they currently do (\$150-200,000). A full quarter think they should be paid less than \$50,000, including 4% who think they should earn nothing.

PPP surveyed 532 registered American voters from April 7th to 10th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





National Survey Results

Q1 If there was an election for Congress today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?

<i>Democrat</i>	46%
<i>Republican</i>	41%
<i>Not sure</i>	13%

Q2 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 is it about the same?

<i>Better job</i>	36%
<i>Worse job</i>	43%
<i>About the same</i>	19%
<i>Not sure</i>	2%

Q3 Do you have more faith in Barack Obama or Congressional Republicans to lead the country in the right direction?

<i>Barack Obama</i>	48%
<i>Congressional Republicans</i>	42%
<i>Not sure</i>	10%

Q4 If there is a shutdown of the federal government do you think members of Congress should continue to receive their salaries or not?

<i>Should continue to receive their salaries</i>	5%
<i>Should not</i>	90%
<i>Not sure</i>	5%

Q5 In general how much do you think members of Congress should be paid: nothing, less than \$50,000 a year, \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year, \$100,001 to \$150,000 a year, \$150,001 to \$200,000 a year, or more than \$200,000 a year?

<i>Nothing</i>	4%
<i>Less than \$50,000</i>	21%
<i>\$50-100,000</i>	41%
<i>\$100,001 to \$150,000</i>	24%
<i>\$150,001 to \$200,000</i>	7%
<i>More than \$200,000</i>	1%
<i>Not sure</i>	1%

Q6 Would you describe the Democratic Party more as mainstream or extremist?

<i>Mainstream</i>	46%
<i>Extremist</i>	39%
<i>Not sure</i>	15%

Q7 Would you describe the Republican Party more as mainstream or extremist?

<i>Mainstream</i>	40%
<i>Extremist</i>	48%
<i>Not sure</i>	12%

Q8 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	18%
<i>Moderate</i>	34%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	27%
<i>Very conservative</i>	14%





Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

Q10 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 38%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 28%

Q11 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.
Hispanic..... 9%
White 74%
African-American 11%
Other..... 6%

Q12 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..... 12%
30 to 45..... 25%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Cong. Ballot						
Democrat	46%	79%	85%	58%	14%	8%
Republican	41%	9%	7%	26%	70%	84%
Not sure	13%	12%	8%	16%	16%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems						
Better job	36%	2%	8%	21%	59%	82%
Worse job	43%	73%	77%	55%	13%	10%
About the same	19%	25%	14%	25%	20%	8%
Not sure	2%	-	1%	-	7%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
More Faith in Obama or Cong. GOP?						
Barack Obama	48%	82%	86%	61%	18%	8%
Congressional Republicans	42%	6%	5%	27%	72%	89%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	13%	10%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should Cong. Be Paid During Shutdown?						
Should continue to receive their salaries	5%	16%	8%	3%	2%	5%
Should not	90%	77%	87%	95%	90%	88%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%	2%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
How Much Should Cong. Be Paid?						
Nothing	4%	10%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Less than \$50,000	21%	28%	19%	21%	21%	19%
\$50-100,000	41%	39%	45%	38%	41%	44%
\$100,001 to \$150,000	24%	17%	25%	27%	24%	20%
\$150,001 to \$200,000	7%	2%	4%	9%	9%	7%
More than \$200,000	1%	-	3%	1%	1%	-
Not sure	1%	5%	2%	-	-	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dems Mainstream or Extremist?						
Mainstream	46%	69%	81%	60%	20%	5%
Extremist	39%	22%	5%	24%	62%	84%
Not sure	15%	9%	13%	16%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
GOP Mainstream or Extremist?						
Mainstream	40%	14%	11%	23%	69%	79%
Extremist	48%	74%	80%	64%	18%	10%
Not sure	12%	11%	9%	14%	13%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Cong. Ballot			
Democrat	46%	47%	44%
Republican	41%	39%	43%
Not sure	13%	14%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems			
Better job	36%	37%	35%
Worse job	43%	43%	43%
About the same	19%	19%	20%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
More Faith in Obama or Cong. GOP?			
Barack Obama	48%	49%	47%
Congressional Republicans	42%	42%	42%
Not sure	10%	9%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Cong. Be Paid During Shutdown?			
Should continue to receive their salaries	5%	4%	5%
Should not	90%	88%	92%
Not sure	5%	8%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
How Much Should Cong. Be Paid?			
Nothing	4%	6%	3%
Less than \$50,000	21%	23%	18%
\$50-100,000	41%	46%	36%
\$100,001 to \$150,000	24%	19%	29%
\$150,001 to \$200,000	7%	5%	10%
More than \$200,000	1%	1%	2%
Not sure	1%	1%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dems Mainstream or Extremist?			
Mainstream	46%	44%	48%
Extremist	39%	35%	42%
Not sure	15%	20%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP Mainstream or Extremist?			
Mainstream	40%	38%	42%
Extremist	48%	49%	46%
Not sure	12%	13%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democrat	46%	85%	6%	42%
Republican	41%	6%	86%	33%
Not sure	13%	9%	8%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems				
Better job	36%	8%	72%	30%
Worse job	43%	76%	6%	44%
About the same	19%	16%	20%	24%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
More Faith in Obama or Cong. GOP?				
Barack Obama	48%	85%	8%	49%
Congressional Republicans	42%	7%	83%	37%
Not sure	10%	8%	9%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should Cong. Be Paid During Shutdown?				
Should continue to receive their salaries	5%	9%	1%	4%
Should not	90%	84%	94%	93%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
How Much Should Cong. Be Paid?				
Nothing	4%	4%	6%	3%
Less than \$50,000	21%	22%	21%	18%
\$50-100,000	41%	37%	40%	47%
\$100,001 to \$150,000	24%	24%	24%	24%
\$150,001 to \$200,000	7%	7%	8%	8%
More than \$200,000	1%	2%	0%	1%
Not sure	1%	4%	0%	-

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dems Mainstream or Extremist?				
Mainstream	46%	78%	9%	49%
Extremist	39%	11%	71%	36%
Not sure	15%	11%	20%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
GOP Mainstream or Extremist?				
Mainstream	40%	12%	77%	33%
Extremist	48%	77%	15%	49%
Not sure	12%	11%	9%	18%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democrat	46%	61%	37%	81%	70%
Republican	41%	27%	50%	9%	12%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%	10%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems					
Better job	36%	26%	43%	13%	10%
Worse job	43%	55%	35%	72%	72%
About the same	19%	17%	20%	15%	18%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	-	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
More Faith in Obama or Cong. GOP?					
Barack Obama	48%	62%	38%	86%	78%
Congressional Republicans	42%	22%	51%	9%	19%
Not sure	10%	16%	11%	5%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Should Cong. Be Paid During Shutdown?					
Should continue to receive their salaries	5%	9%	4%	8%	6%
Should not	90%	81%	92%	84%	89%
Not sure	5%	10%	4%	8%	5%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
How Much Should Cong. Be Paid?					
Nothing	4%	15%	4%	-	-
Less than \$50,000	21%	13%	21%	22%	29%
\$50-100,000	41%	54%	39%	42%	42%
\$100,001 to \$150,000	24%	15%	26%	18%	23%
\$150,001 to \$200,000	7%	2%	7%	12%	6%
More than \$200,000	1%	2%	1%	-	-
Not sure	1%	-	1%	6%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Dems Mainstream or Extremist?					
Mainstream	46%	63%	39%	60%	85%
Extremist	39%	25%	44%	23%	15%
Not sure	15%	12%	16%	17%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
GOP Mainstream or Extremist?					
Mainstream	40%	36%	47%	7%	15%
Extremist	48%	45%	42%	69%	82%
Not sure	12%	18%	10%	24%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democrat	46%	59%	40%	45%	47%
Republican	41%	25%	45%	42%	43%
Not sure	13%	16%	15%	13%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
House GOP Doing Better/Worse/Same as Dems					
Better job	36%	25%	42%	33%	41%
Worse job	43%	56%	37%	44%	38%
About the same	19%	19%	15%	22%	20%
Not sure	2%	-	6%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
More Faith in Obama or Cong. GOP?					
Barack Obama	48%	56%	42%	50%	47%
Congressional Republicans	42%	31%	45%	43%	43%
Not sure	10%	13%	13%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Cong. Be Paid During Shutdown?					
Should continue to receive their salaries	5%	3%	4%	6%	4%
Should not	90%	91%	91%	89%	90%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%	5%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
How Much Should Cong. Be Paid?					
Nothing	4%	-	6%	4%	6%
Less than \$50,000	21%	28%	21%	19%	20%
\$50-100,000	41%	41%	45%	39%	41%
\$100,001 to \$150,000	24%	25%	22%	24%	25%
\$150,001 to \$200,000	7%	3%	3%	12%	7%
More than \$200,000	1%	-	1%	2%	1%
Not sure	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dems Mainstream or Extremist?					
Mainstream	46%	53%	39%	50%	45%
Extremist	39%	28%	43%	39%	38%
Not sure	15%	19%	18%	11%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP Mainstream or Extremist?					
Mainstream	40%	31%	40%	41%	43%
Extremist	48%	59%	43%	49%	45%
Not sure	12%	9%	16%	10%	12%

