

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

GALLUP POLL SOCIAL SERIES: GOVERNANCE

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Timberline: 937614
GAL 050
Princeton Job #: 25-09-011

September 2-16, 2025

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 2-16, 2025, with a random sample of –1,000— adults, ages 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on this sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 80% cell phone respondents and 20% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cell phone telephone numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member has the next birthday.

Samples are weighted to correct for unequal selection probability, non-response, and double coverage of landline and cell users in the two sampling frames. They are also weighted to match the national demographics of gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, population density, party identification, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the most recent Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the most recent National Health Interview Survey. Party identification targets are based on the average of the three most recent Gallup polls. Population density targets are based on the 2020 census. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls. For questions about how this survey was conducted, please contact galluphelp@gallup.com.

37. As you may know, Congress can reduce the federal budget deficit by cutting spending, raising taxes, or a combination of the two. Ideally, how would you prefer to see Congress attempt to reduce the federal budget deficit – [ROTATED: only with spending cuts, mostly with spending cuts, equally with spending cuts and tax increases, mostly with tax increases, (or) only with tax increases]?

	<i>2025 Sep 2-15</i>	<i>2012 Nov 9-12</i>	<i>2011 Jul 7-10</i>	<i>2011 Apr 20-23</i>
Only with spending cuts	22	10	20	20
Mostly with spending cuts	27	30	30	28
Equally with spending cuts/Tax increases	27	45	32	37
Mostly with tax increases	12	8	7	9
Only with tax increases	5	3	4	2
Other (vol.)	2	1	1	1
No opinion	6	3	5	3

Turning now to the federal debt,

38. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following as a way to reduce the federal debt. How about—[RANDOM ORDER]?

2025 Sep 2-16

(sorted by “excellent/good”)

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
	%	%
Increasing income tax rates for upper income Americans	63	35
Increasing tax revenues by making major changes to the current federal tax code	54	39
Making significant changes to Medicaid and food assistance programs to reduce their cost	49	48
Cutting spending for programs other than defense, Social Security and Medicare	48	48
Cutting defense spending	42	55
Increasing tax revenues by imposing tariffs on products imported from other countries	41	56
Making significant changes to the Social Security and Medicare programs to reduce their cost	39	57

FULL TRENDS AND RESULTS:

A. Increasing tax revenues by making major changes to the current federal tax code

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	54	39	7
2011 Aug 4-7	60	33	7

B. Cutting defense spending

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	42	55	3
2011 Aug 4-7	47	51	2

C. Making significant changes to the Social Security and Medicare programs to reduce their cost

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	39	57	4
2011 Aug 4-7	42	56	2

D. Cutting spending for programs other than defense, Social Security and Medicare

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	48	48	5
2011 Aug 4-7	42	56	2

E. Increasing income tax rates for upper income Americans

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	63	35	2
2011 Aug 4-7	66	33	1

F. Increasing tax revenue by imposing tariffs on products imported from other countries

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	41	56	3

G. Making significant changes to Medicaid and food assistance programs to reduce their cost

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2025 Sep 2-16	49	48	3

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QN37: Congress reducing federal budget deficit BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Only with spending cuts	22%	24%	20%	25%	17%	16%	25%	23%	19%	23%	25%	38%	22%	6%	16%	26%	21%
Mostly with spending cuts	27%	29%	25%	30%	22%	23%	27%	29%	26%	30%	26%	42%	25%	15%	27%	25%	30%
Equally with spending cuts and tax increases	27%	23%	29%	25%	31%	30%	24%	29%	32%	26%	24%	13%	28%	41%	30%	29%	26%
Mostly with tax increases	12%	12%	12%	11%	13%	14%	16%	7%	17%	10%	8%	2%	13%	20%	8%	11%	16%
Only with tax increases	5%	3%	6%	5%	3%	8%	4%	4%	3%	5%	5%	0%	4%	8%	6%	4%	5%
OTHER (VOL)	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	4%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%
(DK)/(Refused)	6%	6%	6%	3%	11%	7%	5%	6%	2%	5%	9%	2%	7%	8%	11%	4%	2%

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QN38A: Favor/oppose: making major changes to federal tax code BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	54%	56%	51%	57%	48%	48%	65%	50%	62%	52%	49%	46%	54%	64%	50%	51%	66%
Oppose	39%	38%	40%	36%	44%	45%	33%	39%	32%	42%	45%	48%	40%	28%	42%	44%	31%
(DK)/(Refused)	7%	5%	9%	7%	8%	6%	3%	11%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	8%	8%	5%	3%

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QN38B: Favor/oppose: cutting defense spending BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	42%	46%	38%	40%	45%	50%	49%	32%	51%	36%	36%	13%	45%	63%	42%	39%	49%
Oppose	55%	50%	61%	58%	51%	43%	50%	65%	47%	62%	60%	87%	50%	34%	54%	60%	51%
(DK)/(Refused)	3%	4%	2%	2%	4%	7%	1%	3%	2%	2%	4%	0%	5%	3%	4%	1%	1%

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QN38C: Favor/oppose: making major changes to social security and medicare to reduce cost BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	39%	48%	30%	39%	41%	50%	43%	30%	32%	37%	49%	56%	42%	18%	38%	39%	42%
Oppose	57%	47%	66%	57%	55%	42%	56%	66%	66%	60%	46%	40%	54%	77%	56%	61%	57%
(DK)/(Refused)	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	7%	2%	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	6%	0%	1%

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QN38D: Favor/oppose: cutting spending for programs besides defense, social security and medicare BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	48%	53%	43%	53%	37%	43%	46%	51%	45%	51%	49%	72%	47%	26%	41%	47%	54%
Oppose	48%	42%	54%	42%	58%	47%	52%	44%	53%	44%	45%	27%	46%	69%	51%	50%	45%
(DK)/(Refused)	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%	10%	1%	5%	3%	4%	6%	2%	7%	5%	7%	3%	2%

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QN38E: Favor/oppose: Increasing tax rates for upper income earners BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	63%	56%	68%	62%	64%	66%	65%	60%	70%	63%	55%	38%	62%	86%	66%	65%	65%
Oppose	35%	40%	31%	37%	32%	27%	35%	40%	28%	36%	42%	61%	34%	13%	31%	34%	34%
(DK)/(Refused)	2%	4%	1%	1%	4%	7%	0%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	1%	3%	1%	0%

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QN38F: Favor/oppose: imposing tariffs on imported products BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	41%	47%	35%	47%	29%	33%	40%	46%	33%	45%	48%	89%	35%	5%	34%	45%	40%
Oppose	56%	48%	64%	51%	66%	62%	58%	51%	65%	52%	49%	10%	60%	94%	64%	53%	58%
(DK)/(Refused)	3%	5%	2%	2%	5%	5%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%	1%	3%	3%	2%

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QN38G: Favor/oppose: making major changes to Medicaid and food assistance programs BY Total + Gender + Race I + Age + Education + Party I.D. + Household Income

	Total	Gender		Race I		Age			Education			Party I.D.			Household Income		
		Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-54	55+	Grad	College	Less	Republican	Independent	Democrat	\$50,000	100,000	\$100,000+
Favor	49%	55%	43%	51%	46%	51%	53%	45%	39%	51%	58%	75%	50%	22%	51%	47%	52%
Oppose	48%	41%	54%	47%	49%	41%	47%	52%	59%	46%	38%	24%	46%	74%	45%	51%	47%
(DK)/(Refused)	3%	5%	2%	2%	5%	8%	0%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	4%	2%	1%

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