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# **The People's Agenda: America's Priorities and Outlook for 2014**

**Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

*Interview dates: 12/12 – 12/16/2013*

*Interviews: 1,141 American adults (age 18 and over)*

*Margin of error: +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.  
Numbers may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.*

## **PUBLIC PRIORITIES**

**PRI1.** Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	Total
Right direction	35
Wrong direction	63
Refused	1

**PRI2.** Thinking about the problems facing the United States and the world today, which problems would you like the government to be working on in the year 2014? [Open-ended question coded. Respondents were able to list up to 10 problems.]

<b>Economic issues</b>	
Unemployment/jobs (n=448)	42
Economy, general (n=414)	39
Debt/deficit/government spending/budget (n=330)	31
Taxes (n=192)	18
Poverty/hunger/homelessness (n=93)	9
Trade (n=17)	2
Other economic issues (n=16)	2
Business regulation (n=13)	1
Financial/Wall St regulation (n=13)	1
<b>Foreign issues</b>	
Immigration (n=300)	28
"Foreign policy"/US involvement overseas/aggression (n=169)	16
War/Iraq/Afghanistan/military issues (n=144)	14
Terrorism (n=60)	6
National security/defense (n=59)	6
International aid (n=33)	3
Middle East, general (n=13)	1
Nuclear/WMD proliferation (n=12)	1

<b>Domestic issues</b>	
Education (n=283)	27
Environment/climate change (n=135)	13
Welfare issues/Entitlement reform (n=104)	10
Gun issues (n=96)	9
Crime/guns/violence (n=87)	8
Social Security (n=72)	7
Other domestic issues (n=76)	7
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor) (n=61)	6
Energy/oil/alternative energy (n=62)	6
Infrastructure (n=53)	5
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class (n=57)	5
Morals/values (n=43)	4
Drugs (n=44)	4
LGBT issues/gay marriage (n=34)	3
Racism/Racial Inequality/racial issues (n=32)	3
NSA/domestic spying/privacy (n=29)	3
Abortion (n=22)	2
Social injustice/discrimination (n=21)	2
Food safety (n=20)	2
Manufacturing (n=11)	1
Encroachment on American values (speak English, stop communism at home) (n=9)	1
<b>Health issues</b>	
Health (unspecified) (n=51)	5
Other health issues (n=26)	3
<b>Personal financial issues</b>	
Minimum wage/wages (n=69)	7
Gas prices/oil/energy costs (n=38)	4
Personal financial situation/cost of living for Americans (n=19)	2
Housing costs (foreclosure/housing prices/upside-down on mortgage) (n=17)	2
<b>Health care</b>	
Health care reform/Obamacare/Affordable Care Act (n=548)	52
Cost of health care/medical bills (n=30)	3
Health care for elderly/Medicare (n=29)	3

PRI2. continued ...

<b>Political issues</b>	
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown (n=65)	6
President Obama (n=66)	6
Specific parties/politicians/Congress (n=65)	6
Smaller government/get government out of our lives (n=49)	5
Government corruption/fraud (n=26)	3
Government accountability/transparency (n=27)	3
Uphold Constitution/protect freedoms (n=28)	3
Need effective leadership/"do nothing" Congress/leaders (n=21)	2
Term limits (n=22)	2
Government pay/benefits (n=21)	2
Special interest money in politics/lobbying (n=12)	1
True representation of public's interests (n=13)	1
Voting laws/voter fraud (n=11)	1
Other political issues (n=45)	4
Other (n=238)	23

**PRI2A.** If you have additional problems you want to list, please enter them here. [Open-ended question coded]

<b>Economy issues</b>	
Trade	4
Unemployment/jobs	3
Debt/deficit/government spending/budget	2
Business regulation	1
<b>Domestic issues</b>	
Other domestic issues	11
Welfare issues/Entitlement reform	4
Education	3
Environment/climate change	2
Crime/guns/violence	2
Morals/values	2
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor)	2
NSA/domestic spying/privacy	2
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class	1
Gun issues	1

PRI2A. continued ...

<b>Foreign issues</b>	
Immigration	2
Foreign policy/US involvement overseas/aggression (put general mentions of other countries here)	1
International aid	1
<b>Health care issues</b>	
Health care reform/Obamacare/Affordable Care Act	6
Cost of health care/medical bills	6
<b>Politics issues</b>	
Specific parties/politicians/Congress	6
Smaller government/get government out of our lives	5
Government corruption/fraud	4
Need effective leadership /do nothing Congress/leaders	4
Other political issues	3
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown	3
President Obama	1
Special interest money in politics/lobbying	1
Government accountability/transparency	1
Term limits	1
Government pay/benefits	1
True representation of public's interests	*
No problems	8
Don't know	1
Other	7

*N=74*

**PR13.** For each of these problems that you mentioned, how much effort would you like the federal government to devote to solving this problem in the year 2014?

	<b>None/ Only a little of effort</b>	No effort at all	Only a little effort	<b>A moderate amount of effort</b>	<b>A lot/ a great deal of effort</b>	A lot of effort	A great deal of effort	Refused
Racism/Racial inequality/racial issues (N=35)	<b>56</b>	40	16	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	10	16	6
Trade (N=15)	<b>26</b>	0	26	<b>22</b>	<b>52</b>	3	49	0
Abortion (N=24)	<b>15</b>	5	10	<b>3</b>	<b>82</b>	7	75	0
Need effective leadership /"do nothing" Congress/leaders (N=26)	<b>14</b>	5	9	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	2	84	0
Personal financial situation / cost of living for Americans (N=19)	<b>13</b>	13	0	<b>2</b>	<b>86</b>	51	34	0
Morals/values (N=54)	<b>12</b>	9	3	<b>8</b>	<b>80</b>	10	70	0
Middle East, general (N=17)	<b>10</b>	0	10	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>	28	27	0
Specific parties/ politicians/Congress (N=94)	<b>10</b>	6	4	<b>5</b>	<b>84</b>	13	70	1
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class (N=63)	<b>9</b>	4	5	<b>10</b>	<b>81</b>	30	51	0
LGBT issues (N=37)	<b>9</b>	9	0	<b>22</b>	<b>69</b>	15	55	0
President Obama (N=74)	<b>9</b>	8	1	<b>1</b>	<b>91</b>	6	85	0
Government pay/benefits (N=20)	<b>9</b>	9	0	<b>6</b>	<b>85</b>	5	81	0
Other political issues (N=66)	<b>9</b>	3	6	<b>11</b>	<b>80</b>	27	53	0
Drugs (N=45)	<b>8</b>	2	5	<b>14</b>	<b>79</b>	46	33	0
Business regulation (N=16)	<b>8</b>	8	0	<b>31</b>	<b>61</b>	34	27	0
Immigration (N=326)	<b>8</b>	2	5	<b>13</b>	<b>79</b>	27	52	0
Voting laws/voter fraud (N=14)	<b>8</b>	8	0	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	27	65	0
"Foreign policy"/ US involvement overseas/aggression (put general mentions of other countries here) (N=207)	<b>8</b>	4	4	<b>25</b>	<b>66</b>	23	43	1
Special interest money in politics / lobbying (N=14)	<b>8</b>	8	0	<b>19</b>	<b>73</b>	5	68	0
Financial/Wall St regulation (N=21)	<b>7</b>	0	7	<b>6</b>	<b>87</b>	19	68	0
Social injustice/discrimination (N=25)	<b>7</b>	0	7	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	33	20	0
War/Iraq/Afghanistan/military issues (N=163)	<b>7</b>	2	5	<b>18</b>	<b>73</b>	22	51	1
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown (N=92)	<b>7</b>	4	3	<b>4</b>	<b>89</b>	9	80	0
Health (unspecified) (N=38)	<b>7</b>	0	7	<b>4</b>	<b>89</b>	34	55	0

PRI3. continued ...

	<b>None/ Only a little of effort</b>	No effort at all	Only a little effort	<b>A moderate amount of effort</b>	<b>A lot/ a great deal of effort</b>	A lot of effort	A great deal of effort	Refused
Minimum wage/wages (N=58)	<b>7</b>	1	6	<b>11</b>	<b>82</b>	34	48	0
Gun issues (N=96)	<b>6</b>	3	4	<b>14</b>	<b>79</b>	35	45	1
Other domestic issues (N=134)	<b>6</b>	0	6	<b>20</b>	<b>72</b>	31	40	2
Environment/climate change (N=148)	<b>6</b>	2	4	<b>19</b>	<b>75</b>	39	35	0
Food safety (N=18)	<b>6</b>	6	0	<b>14</b>	<b>80</b>	31	48	0
Welfare issues/ Entitlement reform (N=118)	<b>6</b>	5	1	<b>12</b>	<b>82</b>	26	56	0
Unemployment/jobs (N=445)	<b>5</b>	2	3	<b>8</b>	<b>87</b>	22	64	0
Debt/deficit/government spending/budget (N=412)	<b>5</b>	2	3	<b>6</b>	<b>88</b>	20	69	1
NSA/domestic spying/ privacy (N=30)	<b>5</b>	0	5	<b>12</b>	<b>84</b>	18	66	0
Economy, general (N=416)	<b>5</b>	3	2	<b>7</b>	<b>88</b>	27	61	0
Taxes (N=218)	<b>5</b>	2	3	<b>13</b>	<b>81</b>	26	56	1
Other economic issues (N=36)	<b>5</b>	3	2	<b>23</b>	<b>72</b>	33	39	0
Uphold Constitution/protect freedoms (N=42)	<b>5</b>	3	2	<b>5</b>	<b>90</b>	13	77	0
Health care reform/Obamacare/Affordable Care Act (N=603)	<b>5</b>	4	1	<b>8</b>	<b>86</b>	28	58	1
Education (N=280)	<b>5</b>	3	3	<b>11</b>	<b>84</b>	28	56	1
Crime/guns/violence (N=88)	<b>5</b>	1	4	<b>12</b>	<b>82</b>	18	64	1
Social Security (N=82)	<b>5</b>	4	2	<b>10</b>	<b>85</b>	39	46	0
National security/defense (N=59)	<b>5</b>	0	5	<b>15</b>	<b>81</b>	24	56	0
International aid (N=39)	<b>5</b>	5	0	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>	35	55	0
Government accountability/transparency (N=33)	<b>5</b>	5	0	<b>3</b>	<b>93</b>	22	71	0
True representation of public's interests (N=14)	<b>5</b>	0	5	<b>3</b>	<b>92</b>	8	85	0
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor) (N=61)	<b>4</b>	0	4	<b>7</b>	<b>90</b>	23	67	0
Housing costs (foreclosure / housing prices / upside-down on mortgage) (N=12)	<b>4</b>	0	4	<b>12</b>	<b>84</b>	16	68	0
Government corruption/ fraud (N=34)	<b>4</b>	3	2	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>	33	62	0
Other health issues (N=24)	<b>4</b>	0	4	<b>28</b>	<b>66</b>	31	35	2
Terrorism (N=68)	<b>3</b>	0	3	<b>8</b>	<b>89</b>	34	55	0
Gas prices/oil/energy costs (N=47)	<b>3</b>	3	0	<b>10</b>	<b>85</b>	33	53	1

PRI3. continued ...

	<b>None/ Only a little of effort</b>	No effort at all	Only a little effort	<b>A moderate amount of effort</b>	<b>A lot/ a great deal of effort</b>	A lot of effort	A great deal of effort	Refused
Infrastructure (N=54)	<b>2</b>	0	2	<b>14</b>	<b>83</b>	48	36	0
Energy (N=69)	<b>2</b>	0	2	<b>12</b>	<b>87</b>	32	55	0
Smaller government/get gov't out of our lives (N=63)	<b>1</b>	0	1	<b>4</b>	<b>95</b>	27	68	0
Poverty/hunger/ homelessness (N=111)	<b>1</b>	0	1	<b>10</b>	<b>88</b>	30	57	1
Manufacturing (N=13)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	14	86	0
Encroachment on American values (speak English, stop communism at home) (N=13)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	9	91	0
Cost of health care / medical bills (N=34)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	24	76	0
Health care for elderly/Medicare (N=32)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>6</b>	<b>94</b>	18	76	0
Term limits (N=35)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	5	72	0
Nuclear/WMD proliferation (N=16)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>5</b>	<b>95</b>	29	66	0
Don't know (N=3)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>	75	0	0
Other (N=304)	<b>10</b>	5	5	<b>14</b>	<b>76</b>	19	57	0
No problems (N=7)	<b>96</b>	95	0	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0



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**PRI4.** For each of these problems that you mentioned, how confident are you that the federal government can make real progress in solving that issue in 2014?

	<b>Not at all/ Slightly confident</b>	Not at all confident	Slightly confident	<b>Moderately confident</b>	<b>Very/ Extremely confident</b>	Very confident	Extremely confident	Refused
Business regulation (N=16)	<b>100</b>	79	21	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Encroachment on American values (speak English, stop communism at home) (N=13)	<b>100</b>	87	13	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Term limits (N=35)	<b>100</b>	99	1	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Smaller government/get gov't out of our lives (N=63)	<b>99</b>	91	8	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	1
Specific parties/politicians/Congress (N=94)	<b>97</b>	84	13	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	2	0	0
Government corruption/fraud (N=34)	<b>97</b>	79	18	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Government accountability/transparency (N=33)	<b>96</b>	82	14	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	1	0	3
Need effective leadership /"do nothing" Congress/leaders (N=26)	<b>95</b>	85	10	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	4
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class (N=63)	<b>93</b>	86	7	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	3	2	0
Abortion (N=24)	<b>91</b>	80	11	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	1	3	0
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown (N=92)	<b>91</b>	69	22	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	2	4	1
True representation of public's interests (N=14)	<b>88</b>	82	6	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	5	7	0
President Obama (N=74)	<b>88</b>	87	2	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	2	7	1
Housing costs (foreclosure / housing prices / upside-down on mortgage) (N=12)	<b>88</b>	64	24	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Special interest money in politics / lobbying (N=14)	<b>88</b>	79	9	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	0	7	5
Racism/Racial inequality/racial issues (N=35)	<b>88</b>	75	12	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	2	0	0
Morals/values (N=54)	<b>88</b>	63	25	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	4	1	2
Welfare issues/ Entitlement reform (N=118)	<b>87</b>	71	16	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	4	2	0
Social Security (N=82)	<b>86</b>	55	31	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	3	1	0
Debt/deficit/government spending/budget (N=412)	<b>85</b>	65	20	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	4	1	0
Other political issues (N=66)	<b>84</b>	69	15	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	0	2	2
Food safety (N=18)	<b>84</b>	28	56	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	6	0	0
NSA/domestic spying/privacy (N=30)	<b>84</b>	73	12	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	2	6	0
Gas prices/oil/energy costs (N=47)	<b>83</b>	58	25	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Infrastructure (N=54)	<b>83</b>	45	39	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	3	4	0
Energy (N=69)	<b>82</b>	55	27	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Taxes (N=210)	<b>82</b>	62	20	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	8	2	1
Manufacturing (N=13)	<b>81</b>	51	29	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
LGBT issues (N=37)	<b>81</b>	60	21	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	0	8	0
Trade (N=15)	<b>80</b>	57	23	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Nuclear/WMD proliferation (N=16)	<b>79</b>	52	27	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	14	0	0

	<b>Not at all/ Slightly confident</b>	Not at all confident	Slightly confident	<b>Moderately confident</b>	<b>Very/ Extremely confident</b>	Very confident	Extremely confident	Refused
Uphold Constitution/protect freedoms (N=42)	<b>79</b>	68	10	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	3
Drugs (N=45)	<b>76</b>	44	32	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	14	0	2
Cost of health care / medical bills (N=34)	<b>75</b>	52	23	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	7	6	0
Poverty/hunger/homelessness (N=111)	<b>75</b>	49	26	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	7	0	1
Immigration (N=326)	<b>75</b>	50	25	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	7	1	0
Other domestic issues (N=134)	<b>74</b>	42	32	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	6	4	0
Environment/climate change (N=148)	<b>74</b>	44	30	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	3	2	0
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor) (N=61)	<b>73</b>	45	29	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	1	11	0
International aid (N=39)	<b>71</b>	62	9	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	19	3	0
War/Iraq/Afghanistan/military issues (N=163)	<b>70</b>	48	22	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	9	3	0
"Foreign policy"/ US involvement overseas/aggression (put general mentions of other countries here) (N=207)	<b>70</b>	41	29	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	10	1	0
Other economic issues (N=36)	<b>70</b>	44	26	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Gun issues (N=96)	<b>70</b>	42	27	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	10	5	0
Health care reform/Obamacare/Affordable Care Act (N=603)	<b>69</b>	49	20	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	6	5	0
Crime/guns/violence (N=88)	<b>69</b>	36	33	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	9	9	4
Personal financial situation / cost of living for Americans (N=19)	<b>68</b>	65	4	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	5	0	0
Economy, general (N=416)	<b>67</b>	41	27	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	6	3	0
Social Injustice/discrimination (N=25)	<b>66</b>	41	25	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	5	0	0
Unemployment/jobs (N=445)	<b>64</b>	37	27	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	5	4	0
Health care for elderly/Medicare (N=32)	<b>64</b>	46	18	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	22	0	0
Education (N=280)	<b>63</b>	39	24	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	9	2	1
Minimum wage/wages (N=58)	<b>63</b>	31	32	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	19	1	0
Financial/Wall St regulation (N=21)	<b>63</b>	43	20	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	0	13	0
Terrorism (N=68)	<b>62</b>	36	26	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	10	4	0
Middle East, general (N=17)	<b>58</b>	32	26	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	4	0	0
Government pay/benefits (N=20)	<b>57</b>	50	7	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	9	34	0
National security / defense (N=59)	<b>56</b>	27	29	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	18	7	0
Voting laws/voter fraud (N=14)	<b>55</b>	41	14	<b>13</b>	<b>31</b>	27	4	0
Other health issues (N=24)	<b>38</b>	28	9	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>	45	5	0
Health (unspecified) (N=38)	<b>37</b>	16	21	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	22	8	0
Don't know (N=3)	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Other (N=304)	<b>73</b>	56	18	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	8	4	1
No problems (N=7)	<b>76</b>	76	0	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	19

**PRI5\_A – PRI5\_T.** Here is a list of issues that some people have mentioned as ones that the federal government should focus on in the coming year. For each one, please say how much effort you would like the federal government to expend on this issue in 2014.

[RESPONDENTS RECEIVED 10 ITEMS IN A RANDOM ORDER]

	<b>None/ Only a little effort</b>	No effort at all	Only a little effort	<b>A moderate amount of effort</b>	<b>A lot/ A great deal of effort</b>	A lot of effort	A great deal of effort	Refused
Advancing gay rights (N=557)	<b>55</b>	36	18	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	12	8	1
Overturing Roe v. Wade (N=561)	<b>52</b>	39	13	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	11	13	3
Reforming gun laws (N=559)	<b>45</b>	24	21	<b>16</b>	<b>37</b>	16	21	2
Addressing climate change (N=559)	<b>41</b>	21	21	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	13	15	2
Reducing gender disparities in the workplace (N=585)	<b>39</b>	17	22	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	18	9	2
Promoting traditional family values (N=566)	<b>36</b>	21	15	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	16	23	1
Reducing racism and racial disparities (N=552)	<b>36</b>	14	22	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	19	14	2
Protecting a woman's right to choose (N=555)	<b>32</b>	17	15	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	16	22	3
Reducing the gap between the wealthy and poor (N=580)	<b>30</b>	16	13	<b>24</b>	<b>44</b>	19	25	3
Protecting the right to vote (N=559)	<b>28</b>	11	17	<b>23</b>	<b>47</b>	21	26	2
Preparing for natural disasters (N=594)	<b>22</b>	6	16	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	21	15	2
Reforming the immigration system (N=580)	<b>21</b>	7	15	<b>28</b>	<b>48</b>	21	28	2
Improving the quality of education (N=569)	<b>14</b>	5	9	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>	29	33	2
Improving infrastructure like bridges, highways, and dams (N=572)	<b>14</b>	3	10	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	25	20	3
Improving the health care system (N=578)	<b>14</b>	7	7	<b>16</b>	<b>68</b>	27	41	2
Reducing the federal budget deficit (N=584)	<b>11</b>	4	7	<b>16</b>	<b>71</b>	25	46	2
Reforming the tax system (N=572)	<b>11</b>	3	9	<b>27</b>	<b>59</b>	30	29	3
Reducing unemployment (N=562)	<b>10</b>	6	5	<b>20</b>	<b>67</b>	29	39	3
Improving the way the government functions (N=579)	<b>10</b>	4	6	<b>18</b>	<b>70</b>	29	41	2
Protecting the future of Social Security (N=587)	<b>6</b>	1	5	<b>23</b>	<b>68</b>	27	41	2

## Assessments of Government & Leadership

**GOV1.** All in all, how well or badly do you think the system of democracy in America works these days? Would you say it:

	Total
Works well and needs no changes	5
Works well but needs some changes	42
Needs a lot of changes	41
Needs to be completely changed	10
Refused	2

**GOV2A.** How confident are you in the ability of the FEDERAL government to make progress on the important problems and issues facing the country in 2014?

	Total
<b>Not at all/Not very</b>	<b>70</b>
Not at all confident	30
Not very confident	40
<b>Moderately confident</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Very/Extremely</b>	<b>4</b>
Very confident	3
Extremely confident	1
Refused	2

**GOV2B.** How confident are you in the ability of your STATE government to make progress on the important problems and issues facing your state in 2014?

	Total
<b>Not at all/Not very</b>	<b>53</b>
Not at all confident	20
Not very confident	33
<b>Moderately confident</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Very/Extremely</b>	<b>8</b>
Very confident	8
Extremely confident	1
Refused	2

**GOV2C.** How confident are you in the ability of your LOCAL government to make progress on the important problems and issues facing your city or town in 2014?

	Total
<b>Not at all/Not very</b>	<b>44</b>
Not at all confident	16
Not very confident	29
<b>Moderately confident</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Very/Extremely</b>	<b>10</b>
Very confident	9
Extremely confident	1
Refused	2

**GOV3\_A – GOV3\_H.** For each of the following tasks, do you think the federal government is doing a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job at that particular task?

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF STATEMENTS]

	Good job	Neither good nor poor job	Poor job	Refused
Making sure that our nation is safe from foreign and domestic threats	33	42	23	2
Making sure all Americans feel safe, secure and free	22	47	30	2
Making sure that Americans are free to pursue happiness now and in the future	16	47	35	2
Securing America’s position in the world	16	41	40	2
Making sure that all people are treated equally	14	42	42	2
Making America a better place	12	43	44	2
Promoting the well-being of all Americans, not just special interests	9	34	55	2
Representing the views of most Americans	9	34	55	2

**GOV4.** Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion? You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your views:

	Total
The less government the better	50
There are more things that government should be doing	48
Refused	2

**GOV5.** Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion? You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your views:

	Total
We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems	57
The free market can handle these problems without government being involved	41
Refused	2

**GOV6\_A – GOV6\_H.** In general, when the government isn't able to solve an important problem facing the country, other people and institutions may step up to help provide solutions. Do you think each of the following people and institutions is doing too much, too little, or the right amount to solve the country's problems, or should they not do anything at all?

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF STATEMENTS]

	Too much	Too little	The right amount	Should not do anything at all	Refused
Wealthy individuals	11	56	23	8	2
Big businesses	13	54	24	8	2
Individual people like you	5	50	37	6	2
Labor unions	13	36	30	18	2
Medium-sized businesses	3	35	50	8	3
Small businesses	5	32	49	12	3
Churches and religious organizations	7	29	47	15	3
Charitable organizations and foundations	5	25	57	11	2

## Future Outlook

**FUT1\_A – FUT1\_E.** Thinking about the future of our country, please tell me whether you feel generally optimistic or generally pessimistic about each of the following. How about...

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF STATEMENTS]

	Generally optimistic	Generally pessimistic	Refused
The ability of our country to produce strong leaders?	46	51	3
America's role as a global leader in the world?	43	54	3
The opportunity for most people to achieve the American dream?	43	54	3
The way our leaders are chosen under our political system?	37	61	3
Our system of government and how well it works?	36	61	3

**FUT2.** Next, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement. The way things are in America, people like me and my family have a good chance of improving our standard of living?

	Total
<b>Total agree</b>	<b>35</b>
Strongly agree	7
Somewhat agree	28
<b>Neither</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total disagree</b>	<b>37</b>
Somewhat disagree	22
Strongly disagree	16
Refused	1

**FUT3.** Compared to your parents when they were the age you are now, do you think your own standard of living now is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than theirs was?

	Total
<b>Total better</b>	<b>49</b>
Much better	19
Somewhat better	30
About the same	25
<b>Total worse</b>	<b>24</b>
Somewhat worse	15
Much worse	9
Refused	2

**FUT4.** Thinking about life in America now compared with the early 1970s, what do you think has been the biggest change in everyday life in America over that time?

<b>Technology changes (NET)</b>	<b>20</b>
Technology -- general	10
Technology Other	3
Internet (specifically)	2
Computers (specifically)	2
Communication advancements	1
Consumption of technology	1
Too much dependence on technology	1
Cell phones (specifically)	*
Social media	*
<b>Economic changes (NET)</b>	<b>15</b>
High costs/prices/cost of living in general	3
Unemployment/lack of jobs/lower wages/worse economy	3
Economic - general	2
Distribution of wealth/economic inequality/shrinking middle class/poverty	2
Increase in jobs/better jobs/higher wages/better economy	1
Work ethic	1
Corporate greed/influence of big business	1
Shipping jobs overseas	*
Other economic issues	3



FUT4 continued ...

<b>Politics/partisanship/political leadership changes (NET)</b>	<b>9</b>
Big government/too much government	3
Other government issues	2
Politics/partisanship/political leadership -- general	1
Polarization/gridlock/lack of government function	1
Lack of leadership	1
Increased taxation	1
Individuals/society dependence on government	1
Politics too ideological/issues with political partisanship and/or extremism	1
Influence of special interests	*
Regulation	*
Government debt	*
<b>Domestic issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>7</b>
Civil rights/equality	3
Civil liberties/freedoms/Constitution	1
Crime/guns/violence/drugs/safety	1
Race relations	1
Energy/environment/climate	*
Education quality improved/people more educated	*
Education quality declined	*
Illegal immigration	*
Other domestic issues	*
<b>Moral/religious/social changes (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>
Decline in morals	2
More individualism (negative)/selfishness/lack of community/respect for others	2
Decline of religion	1
Lack of self-responsibility/entitlement mindset/reliance on handouts (not government specific)	1
Moral/religious/social -- general	*
Too much involvement in private lives	*
Advancement of gay rights	*
Abortion (negative)	*
Other moral issues	*

FUT4 continued ...

<b>Children and family issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>4</b>
Trouble raising kids	1
Two parents working	1
Breakdown of the family unit/lack of two-parent households/breakdown of traditional family	1
Change in American family (unspecified)	1
Children and family -- general	*
Other issues with children	*
Women working more	*
Other family issues	*
<b>Foreign relations/international issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>1</b>
Terrorism	1
Decline of America's role in the world	*
Other foreign issues	*
<b>Quality of life changes (NET)</b>	<b>1</b>
Quality of life -- general	*
Decrease in quality of life/standard of living	*
Fewer opportunities/cannot pursue American Dream	*
Better quality of life/can pursue American Dream	*
Other quality of life issues	*
<b>Health issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>*</b>
Health care	*
Health insurance	*
Health care costs	*
No changes	2
Other	5
Was not alive in 1970s/Don't remember	2
Don't know	2
Refused	28

**FUT5.** And again thinking of life in America now compared with the early 1970s, do you think life in America over that time has:

	Total
Gotten better	29
Gotten worse	54
Stayed about the same	15
Refused	2



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**FUT6.** Looking ahead to the next 40 years, that is from now until about 2050, what do you think will be the biggest change in everyday life in America?

<b>Technology changes (NET)</b>	<b>15</b>
Technology -- general	7
Technology advancements	3
Technology Other	2
Increase consumption of technology	1
Transportation changes	1
How people communicate as a result of technology	1
Machines/robots will take over human tasks	1
Scientific advancements	*
More/too much dependence on technology	1
Space travel/space issues	*
<b>Politics/Government (NET)</b>	<b>11</b>
Big government/too much government/government will continue to get bigger/more involved in our lives	3
Other government issues	2
System of government will change/civil unrest/America will become Communist or Socialist	2
Individuals/society dependence on government	1
America will not be here (general)	1
Politics/government -- general	*
Worse leadership	*
Increased taxation	*
Government debt/spending worse/America goes bankrupt	*
America will be a third world country	*
Better government	*
<b>Economic changes (NET)</b>	<b>10</b>
Bigger gap between rich and poor/economic inequality/shrinking middle class/increase in poverty	5
Other economic issues	2
Economic -- general	1
Unemployment/lack of jobs/lower wages/worse economy	1
High costs/prices/cost of living in general	1
Increase in jobs/better jobs/better economy	*
Corporate greed/influence of big business	*
Shipping jobs overseas/type of jobs will change	*
Work ethic	*

FUT6 continued ...

<b>Domestic issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>8</b>
Loss of civil liberties/freedoms/Constitution	4
Crime/guns/violence/drugs/safety	2
Civil rights/equality better	1
Race relations	1
Other domestic issues	1
Education declines	*
Immigration issues	*
<b>Global changes (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>
Environmental decline/climate change/global warming	2
Changing demographics/increased diversity	1
Energy sources/renewable energy	1
End of the world/we will be surviving	1
Global -- general	*
Food supply/Increased hunger	*
Weather	*
<b>Moral/religious/social change (NET)</b>	<b>3</b>
Decline in morals	1
Decline of religion	1
Less human interaction/more selfishness/people out for themselves (generally)	1
Lack of self-responsibility/entitlement mindset/reliance on handouts (not government specific)	1
Moral/religious/social change -- general	*
Advancement of gay rights	*
Other moral issues	*
<b>Health issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>3</b>
Health -- general	1
Other health issues	1
Health care better	*
Health insurance	*
Health care costs	*
Less healthy	*
More health/people live longer	*
Medical advancements	*

FUT6 continued ...

<b>Quality of life changes (NET)</b>	<b>2</b>
Decrease in quality of life/standard of living	1
Other family issues	1
Quality of life in -- general	*
Fewer opportunities	*
Better quality of life	*
People will work longer/no retirement	*
Trouble raising kids	*
Two parents working	*
Breakdown of the family unit/lack of two-parent households/breakdown of traditional family	*
No time for family	*
<b>Foreign issue changes (NET)</b>	<b>2</b>
More dependency on foreign countries/America will be controlled by foreign countries	1
Decline of America's role in the world	1
Less dependency on foreign countries	*
Terrorism	*
More global competition	*
Other foreign issues	*
Things will get better	*
Things will get worse	2
Don't Know (includes I don't want to think about it)	9
No changes	1
Other	5
I won't be here	1
Refused	22

**FUT7.** Looking ahead to the next 40 years, that is from now until about 2050, do you think life in America over that time will:

	Total
Get better	23
Get worse	54
Stay about the same	21
Refused	2

## **Personal Approval Rating**

**PERS1.** Thinking about the year 2014, what do you most hope to accomplish in the coming year?  
[Open-ended question coded]

<b>Financial goals (NET)</b>	<b>42</b>
Improve current financial situation	10
Get a new/better job or change careers	10
Reduce debt/pay debts	7
Maintain current financial situation	4
Increase savings	3
Keep job	3
Buy/sell a house	2
Complete retirement planning	1
Retire	1
Pay bills	1
Create a budget	*
Maintain/grow R's business	*
Buy a new car	*
<b>Physical/emotional health (NET)</b>	<b>24</b>
Maintain physical health	6
Stay alive/live through year/survive year	4
Improve physical health	4
Be good parent/grandparent/help children be successful	3
Increase/improve spiritual care/life	2
Maintain/improve important relationships; spend time with family	2
Improve physical fitness	1
Lose weight	1
Improve personal care	*
<b>Global issues/Goals (NET)</b>	<b>7</b>
Improved job creation/economy	3
See political party change	1
Improved efficiency/performance of fed govt.	1
Eliminate ACA/Obamacare	1
World peace	1
Immigration reform	1
Improved environment	*
Improved benefits for older Americans	*

PERS1. continued ...

<b>Education (NET)</b>	<b>7</b>
Complete degree/training	4
Begin college/school	2
Get good grades/do well in school or training	1
Other education-related goal	1
<b>Life goals/organization (NET)</b>	<b>6</b>
Organize life/get organized	1
Become more generous/help less fortunate	1
Increase community involvement/volunteer	1
Complete home remodeling projects	1
Travel/take a vacation	1
Enjoy life, Enjoy life more, stay happy	1
Be a better person	1
Simplify lives	*
<b>Change family composition/structure (NET)</b>	<b>2</b>
Get married	1
Start family	1
Move	*
Expand family	*
<b>Personal political goals (NET)</b>	<b>1</b>
Vote for political party change	1
Don't know	1
Nothing can be accomplished	*
No goal for 2014	2
Other	8
Refused	1

**PERS2.** And thinking about the year 2014, what do you think will be the most serious problem facing you personally in the coming year? [Open-ended question coded]

<b>Financial challenges (NET)</b>	<b>47</b>
Maintaining current financial situation/making ends meet/money/finances/economy (personal)	24
Finding employment/getting job	8
Reduce debt/pay debts	3
Buying power/cost of living	3
Job security/keeping job or work	2
Improving current financial situation	1
Increase savings	1
Getting health insurance	1
Healthcare costs/healthcare	4
<b>Physical/Emotional Health (NET)</b>	<b>21</b>
General health (domain unspecified)	10
Physical health/physical limitations	4
Family member health/taking care of family/ill relative	3
Taking care of kids/family	2
Emotional/spiritual health	1
My weight/losing weight	1
Poor personal care decisions	*
Stress--work	*
Stress--personal	*
<b>Macro/government challenges (NET)</b>	<b>7</b>
ACA/Obamacare	2
Government interference	1
Fear of economic collapse	1
Job creation	1
Social Security	1
Federal govt. performance/policy	1
President Obama	1
Immigration	*
<b>Other challenges (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>
Time/schedule limitations/constraints	2
Personal life changes (moving—new baby—etc)	2
“Trying to survive” and similar	1
Violence in community	*



<b>Educational challenges (NET)</b>	<b>4</b>
Paying for college/cost of education	2
Getting good grades/school performance	1
Begin college/school	*
Complete degree/training	*
Other education-related barrier	*
Nothing/No problems	6
Other	5
Don't know	4
Refused	1

**PERS3.** How confident are you in your own ability to make progress on the important issues and problems facing you in the year 2014?

	Total
<b>Not at all/Not very</b>	<b>26</b>
Not at all confident	7
Not very confident	19
<b>Moderately confident</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Very/Extremely</b>	<b>24</b>
Very confident	17
Extremely confident	6
Refused	3

**PERS4.** Overall, would you say you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way you handled the year 2013?

	Total
<b>Total approve</b>	<b>54</b>
Strongly approve	18
Somewhat approve	36
<b>Neither approve nor disapprove</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total disapprove</b>	<b>14</b>
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	4
Refused	2

**PERS5.** Compared to today's leaders in Washington, DC, do you think you personally would do a better or worse job in running the country?

	Total
<b>Total better job</b>	<b>54</b>
I would do a much better job	23
I would do a somewhat better job	31
<b>I wouldn't do any better or worse</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total worse job</b>	<b>13</b>
I would do a somewhat worse job	6
I would do a much worse job	7
Refused	3

## **Social Issues**

**ISS5.** Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	Total
Yes, should be legal	52
No, should not be legal	45
Refused	2

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## DEMOGRAPHICS

DEM1. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

Urban area	25
Suburban area	47
Rural area	26
Refused/Not Answered	2

*Based on:*

*N=1,141*

CHILD. How many children have you ever had? Please count all that were born alive at any time (including any you had from a previous marriage).

None	33
1	13
2	27
3	14
4	6
5 or more	4
Refused/Not Answered	3

*Based on:*

*N=1,141*

RELIGION. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

Protestant	35
Catholic	26
Jewish	2
Some other religion	13
No religion	23
Refused/Not Answered	2

*Based on:*

*N=1,141*

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

Democrat	33
Republican	24
Independent	25
None of these	16
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,141

PID2d. IF "Democrat," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Democrat?

PID2r. IF "Republican," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Republican?

PID2i. IF "INDEPENDENT" OR "NONE," DK OR REFUSED ASK: Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

<b>Total Democrat</b>	<b>41</b>
Democrat - strong	12
Democrat - moderate	21
Ind./None/DK/Ref. - lean Democratic	9
<b>Total Republican</b>	<b>33</b>
Republican - strong	10
Republican - moderate	14
Ind./None/DK/Ref. - lean Republican	9
Independent - don't lean	11
None - don't lean	12
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,141

ID1

IDA. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

IF "Liberal," ASK: Do you consider yourself to be extremely liberal, very liberal or somewhat liberal?

IF "Conservative," ASK: Do you consider yourself to be extremely conservative, very conservative or somewhat conservative?

<b>Liberal</b>	<b>17</b>
Liberal - extremely	3
Liberal - very	6
Liberal - somewhat	7
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>33</b>
Conservative - somewhat	17
Conservative - very	12
Conservative - extremely	3
Refused	4

Based on:

N=1,141

TP4. Do you consider yourself a supporter of the tea party movement, or are you not a supporter of the tea party movement?

Supporter	21
Not a supporter	74
Refused/Not Answered	5

Based on: N=1,141

S1. Are you currently registered to vote at your address, or not?

Yes	75
No	19
Not sure	4
Refused/Not answered	2

Based on: N=1,141

S2. How often would you say you vote?

<b>Always/Nearly always</b>	<b>64</b>
Always	39
Nearly always	25
<b>In about half of elections</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Seldom/Never</b>	<b>25</b>
Seldom	8
Never	17
Refused/Not answered	2

Based on: N=1,141

**AGE**

	Total
18-29	21
30-44	26
45-59	27
60+	26

**GENDER**

	Total
Male	48
Female	52

**EDUCATION**

	Total
Less than high school	12
High school	30
Some college	29
Bachelor's degree or higher	29

**RACE / ETHNICITY**

	Total
White, Non-Hispanic	66
Black, Non-Hispanic	12
Other, Non-Hispanic	6
Hispanic	15
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1

**MARITAL STATUS**

	Total
Married	53
Single (never married)	4
Divorced	10
Widowed	2
Separated	24
Living with Partner	7

## CENSUS REGION

	Total
Northeast	17
Midwest	22
South	37
West	23

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## AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll - The People's Agenda: America's Priorities and Outlook for 2014

### METHODOLOGY

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This survey was conducted by GfK using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, GfK provides, at no cost, a laptop and ISP connection. People who already have computers and internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique login information for accessing surveys online, and they are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in the research.

Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish between December 12 and 16, 2013, with 1,141 adults 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. A total of 2,439 panel members were randomly drawn from GfK's KnowledgePanel®. 1,141 (excluding breakoffs) responded to the invitation, yielding a final stage completion rate of 46.8 percent. The recruitment rate for this study, reported by GfK, was 14.1 percent and the profile rate was 63.7 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 4.2 percent. The overall margin of error is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data has been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Post-stratification variables included age, sex, education, race, and metropolitan status using the August 2013 Current Population Survey. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

A complete study report is available on the AP-NORC Center website: [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).

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