



PRRI/Brookings 2013 Economic Values Survey
N=2,002 (1,202 Landline, 800 Cell phone)
May 30 - June 16, 2013

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 48 | Approve |
| 41 | Disapprove |
| 5 | Mixed/Approve and disapprove (VOL.) |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.2 Over the last two years do you think your own financial situation has gotten better, gotten worse or stayed about the same? **[READ IN ORDER]**

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 23 | Better |
| 32 | Worse |
| 44 | About the same |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

And...

Q.3 Over the last two years do you think the economy has gotten better, gotten worse or stayed about the same? **[READ IN ORDER]**

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 35 | Better |
| 34 | Worse |
| 28 | About the same |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.4 As I read a list of economic issues, please tell me which you consider to be the MOST important economic issue facing the United States today? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 17 The budget deficit
- 26 Lack of jobs
- 9 Social Security
- 15 The increasing gap between rich and poor
- 9 Rising cost of education
- 18 Rising cost of health care
- 4 Other (VOL.)
- 2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

Q.5 Now, we would like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in the country today. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[INSERT NEXT]**? **[READ AS NECESSARY: Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose this?]**

a. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally

- 22 Strongly favor
- 30 Favor
- 21 Oppose
- 20 Strongly oppose
- 7 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

b. Increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than \$250,000 a year

- 29 Strongly favor
- 34 Favor
- 22 Oppose
- 12 Strongly oppose
- 3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

c. Repealing and eliminating the 2010 health care law

- 21 Strongly favor
- 21 Favor
- 24 Oppose
- 18 Strongly oppose
- 17 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

d. Increasing the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.00 an hour

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 34 | Strongly favor |
| 39 | Favor |
| 17 | Oppose |
| 8 | Strongly oppose |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.6 Do you think abortion should be... **[RANDOMIZE LIST ORDER 1-4; 4-1]**

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 19 | Legal in all cases |
| 35 | Legal in most cases |
| 28 | Illegal in most cases |
| 14 | Illegal in all cases |
| <u>4</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.7 Do you think currently the federal government is **[READ IN ORDER]**

[IF DK OR DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Just your general impression, do you think the federal government is...]

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 | Generally working |
| 24 | Working but with some major problems |
| 40 | Broken but working in some areas |
| 26 | Completely broken |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.8 Now I'm going to read you a few pairs of statements. For each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE OPTIONS]** Next... **[INSERT NEXT]**. **[READ IF NECESSARY: Which statement comes closer to your own view?]**

a.

| | |
|----------|--|
| 39 | It is not really that big a problem if some people have more of a chance in life than others |
| 53 | One of the big problems in this country is that we don't give everyone an equal chance in life |
| 4 | Neither (VOL.) |
| 1 | Both equally (VOL.) |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

b.

| | |
|----------|---|
| 59 | Government has become bigger over the years because it has gotten involved in things that people should do for themselves |
| 38 | Government has become bigger over the years because the problems we face have become bigger |
| 1 | Neither (VOL.) |
| 1 | Both equally (VOL.) |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

c.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 41 | Capitalism and the free market system are consistent with Christian values |
| 44 | Capitalism and the free market system are at odds with Christian values |
| 4 | Neither (VOL.) |
| * | Both equally (VOL.) |
| <u>11</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.9 In the past ten years, do you happen to know if the income gap between the rich and the poor has gotten larger, gotten smaller or has it stayed about the same?

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 70 | Gotten larger |
| 5 | Gotten smaller |
| 21 | Stayed about the same |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.10 Thinking about your family, do you think that your generation is better off, about the same, or worse off financially than your parents' generation?

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 36 | Better off |
| 16 | About the same |
| 47 | Worse off |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.11 And do you think that your generation is better off, about the same, or worse off financially than your children's generation will be? **[IF R SAYS NO KIDS OR DON'T WANT KIDS, READ: Please think about the NEXT generation.**

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 52 | Better off |
| 18 | About the same |
| 26 | Worse off |
| <u>4</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.12 Do you think American capitalism is working very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all well?

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 9 | Very well |
| 45 | Somewhat well |
| 26 | Not too well |
| 16 | Not at all well |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF WORKING WELL (Q12=1,2), ASK (N=1,075):

Q.13 What is the MOST important reason you believe capitalism is working well in the U.S.? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| | |
|----------|--|
| 11 | It creates wealth |
| 29 | It provides equal opportunities for everyone |
| 33 | It encourages personal responsibility |
| 24 | It promotes individual freedom |
| 1 | Other [VOL—SPECIFY] |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF NOT WORKING WELL (Q12=3,4), ASK (N=828):

Q.14 What is the MOST important reason you believe capitalism is NOT working well in the U.S.? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| | |
|----------|--|
| 14 | It creates poverty |
| 28 | It does not provide equal opportunities for everyone |
| 34 | It encourages greed |
| 11 | It creates lasting inequalities |
| 4 | Government regulation/interference (VOL.) |
| 4 | Other [VOL—SPECIFY] |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

ASK ALL:

Q.15 In general, how much do you think the federal government helps people like you?

[READ]

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 17 | A lot |
| 56 | A little |
| 26 | Not at all |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.16 Now, as I read some statements on a few different topics, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. (First/Next) **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**.

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (N=1,014):

a. It is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 20 | Completely agree |
| 42 | Mostly agree |
| 24 | Mostly disagree |
| 12 | Completely disagree |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

b. The government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and poor.

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 29 | Completely agree |
| 34 | Mostly agree |
| 19 | Mostly disagree |
| 16 | Completely disagree |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

c. The government should guarantee health insurance for all citizens, even if it means raising taxes.

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 24 | Completely agree |
| 32 | Mostly agree |
| 22 | Mostly disagree |
| 22 | Completely disagree |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

d. Government is providing too many social services that should be left to religious groups and private charities.

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 20 | Completely agree |
| 30 | Mostly agree |
| 30 | Mostly disagree |
| 18 | Completely disagree |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY (N=988):

e. Many people today think they can get ahead without working hard and making sacrifices

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 26 | Completely agree |
| 30 | Mostly agree |
| 24 | Mostly disagree |
| 18 | Completely disagree |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

f. In the United States today, children from all income groups have adequate opportunities to be successful

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 16 | Completely agree |
| 31 | Mostly agree |
| 32 | Mostly disagree |
| 21 | Completely disagree |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

g. Family instability and the decline of two-parent families is a primary cause of America's current economic problems

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 17 | Completely agree |
| 32 | Mostly agree |
| 31 | Mostly disagree |
| 18 | Completely disagree |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

h. Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 19 | Completely agree |
| 35 | Mostly agree |
| 31 | Mostly disagree |
| 14 | Completely disagree |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

ASK ALL:

Q.17 Which do you think is the best way to promote economic growth in the U.S.? **[READ; ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

| | |
|----------|---|
| 41 | Lower taxes on individuals and businesses and pay for those tax cuts by cutting spending on some government services and programs |
| 54 | Spend more on education and the nation's infrastructure, and raise taxes on wealthy individuals and businesses to pay for that spending |
| 3 | Both/Neither (VOL.) |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Now a few different questions...

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS “nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc.”
BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH: and would you say that’s atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]

| | |
|----------|---|
| 34 | Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.) |
| 23 | Roman Catholic (Catholic) |
| 2 | Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS) |
| * | Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church) |
| 1 | Jewish (Judaism) |
| 1 | Muslim (Islam) |
| 1 | Buddhist |
| 1 | Hindu |
| 4 | Atheist (do not believe in God) |
| 4 | Agnostic (not sure if there is a God) |
| 1 | Something else [SPECIFY] |
| 14 | Nothing in particular |
| 14 | Christian (VOL.) |
| * | Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.) |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF SOMETHING ELSE OR DK/REF (RELIG = 11, 99) ASK (N=73):

CHR Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

IF R NAMED A NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN PREVIOUS QUESTION (e.g. Native American, Wiccan, Pagan, etc.), DO NOT READ (ENTER "NO" CODE 2)

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 50 | Yes |
| 35 | No |
| <u>14</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR CHR=1), ASK (N=1,524):

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 46 | Yes |
| 50 | No |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

ASK ALL:

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

12 More than once a week
24 Once a week
15 Once or twice a month
18 A few times a year
18 Seldom
12 Never
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

Q.18 Which of the following comes closest to how you think about the place of religion in your life? **[READ IN ORDER]**

27 Religion is the most important thing in my life
45 Religion is one among many important things in my life
14 Religion is not as important as other things in my life
13 Religion is not important in my life
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

Q.19/Q.20 Which comes closest to your view? **[READ IN ORDER]**

[Holy book: If Christian or no religion (RELIG=1-4, 9, 10, 12, 13 OR CHR=1) insert "the Bible"; If Jewish (RELIG=5), insert "the Torah"; If Muslim (RELIG=6), insert, "the Koran"; If other non-Christian affiliations (RELIG=7,8,14 OR (RELIG=11 AND CHR=2,9)), insert "the Holy Scripture"; IF DK/REF IN RELIGION (RELIG=99) AND CHR=2,9, insert "the Bible"]

IF BELIEVE HOLY BOOK IS WORD OF GOD (Q19=1), ASK (N=1,317):

Q.20 And would you say that **[READ, IN ORDER]**?

65 **[Holy book]** is the word of God, OR
32 **[Holy book]** is to be taken literally, word for word,
31 Not everything in **[Holy book]** should be taken literally, word for word.
2 Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
30 **[Holy book]** is a book written by men and is not the word of God.
2 Other (VOL.)
4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

ASK ALL:

Q.21 Which statement comes closest to your view of God: God is a person with whom people can have a relationship, God is an impersonal force, or I do not believe in God?

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 62 | God is a person |
| 25 | God is an impersonal force |
| 8 | I do not believe in God |
| 2 | Both/Neither/Other (VOL.) |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR CHR=1), ASK (N=1,524):

RRT Do you consider yourself part of the religious right or conservative Christian movement or not?

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 33 | Yes |
| 60 | No |
| <u>7</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF RELIGION IS IMPORTANT TO LIFE (Q18=1,2,3,9), ASK (N=1,746):

RLT Do you consider yourself part of the religious left or progressive religious movement or not?

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 17 | Yes |
| 73 | No |
| <u>11</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

ASK ALL:

Q.22 Now, I'm going to read a list of values that some say are important moral guides for government policy about the economy. Please tell me whether you think each value is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not that important for guiding government policy about the economy? First... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Would you say this is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not that important? What about **[INSERT NEXT]**? **[READ AS NECESSARY: Would you say this is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not that important?]**

a. Promoting freedom and liberty

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 45 | Extremely important |
| 41 | Very important |
| 11 | Somewhat important |
| 3 | Not that important |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

b. Promoting equality and fairness

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 39 | Extremely important |
| 40 | Very important |
| 15 | Somewhat important |
| 4 | Not that important |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

c. Supporting private charity for the poor

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 23 | Extremely important |
| 36 | Very important |
| 31 | Somewhat important |
| 9 | Not that important |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

d. Encouraging people to live more responsible lives

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 47 | Extremely important |
| 39 | Very important |
| 10 | Somewhat important |
| 4 | Not that important |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

e. Providing a public safety net for people who are facing hardships

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 26 | Extremely important |
| 38 | Very important |
| 30 | Somewhat important |
| 5 | Not that important |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.23 Now, as I read some statements on a few different topics, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. (First/Next) **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**.

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

a. It is necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 27 | Completely agree |
| 25 | Mostly agree |
| 20 | Mostly disagree |
| 27 | Completely disagree |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

b. Religion is a private matter that should be kept out of public debates over social and political issues

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 46 | Completely agree |
| 26 | Mostly agree |
| 14 | Mostly disagree |
| 13 | Completely disagree |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

c. God has granted America a special role in human history

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 27 | Completely agree |
| 33 | Mostly agree |
| 16 | Mostly disagree |
| 21 | Completely disagree |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

d. If enough people had a personal relationship with God, social problems would take care of themselves

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 24 | Completely agree |
| 31 | Mostly agree |
| 22 | Mostly disagree |
| 21 | Completely disagree |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF HAS A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELIG=1-8, 11, 13-14 OR (RELIG=99 AND CHR=1)), ASK (N=1,608):

Q.24a Thinking about your religion, which of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your view? My church or denomination should **[READ IN ORDER]**

| | |
|----------|--|
| 49 | Preserve its traditional beliefs and practices |
| 29 | Adjust traditional beliefs and practices in light of new circumstances |
| 17 | Adopt modern beliefs and practices. |
| 1 | Other (VOL.) |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

IF HAS NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELIG=9,10,12 OR (RELIG=99 AND CHR=2,9)), ASK (N=394):

Q.24b Thinking about religious groups in the U.S., which of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your view? Churches and religious denominations should **[READ IN ORDER]**

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 21 | Preserve traditional beliefs and practices |
| 36 | Adjust traditional beliefs and practices in light of new circumstances |
| 31 | Adopt modern beliefs and practices. |
| 2 | Other (VOL.) |
| <u>10</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

ASK ALL:

Q.25/Q.26 I'm going to read you a few pairs of statements. For each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE OPTIONS; ASK Q26 FOLLOW-UP BEFORE MOVING ONTO NEXT Q25 ITEM].** Next... **[INSERT NEXT]. [READ IF NECESSARY: Which statement comes closer to your own view?]**

Q.25a. In the Bible, when Jesus and prophets talked about taking care of the poor, they were primarily talking about...

Q.26a And do you feel strongly about that, or not?¹

| | |
|-----|---|
| 50 | Charitable acts by individuals |
| 39 | <i>Feels strongly</i> |
| 11 | <i>Does not feel strongly</i> |
| 41 | Our obligation to create a just society |
| 31 | <i>Feels strongly</i> |
| 9 | <i>Does not feel strongly</i> |
| 4 | Both/Neither (VOL.) |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

Q.25b. In the end, being a religious person is primarily about...

Q.26b And do you feel strongly about that, or not?

| | |
|-----|--|
| 59 | Living a good life and doing the right thing |
| 51 | <i>Feels strongly</i> |
| 7 | <i>Does not feel strongly</i> |
| 36 | Having faith and the right beliefs |
| 30 | <i>Feels strongly</i> |
| 5 | <i>Does not feel strongly</i> |
| 4 | Both/Neither (VOL.) |
| 2 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

¹ For both Q26a and Q26b, respondents who said they were unsure how they felt or refused to say whether they felt strongly or not were coded as feeling not strongly.

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute in partnership with the Brookings Institution. The survey was made possible by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) telephone interviews conducted between May 30, 2013 and June 16, 2013, by professional interviewers under the supervision of Princeton Survey Research Associates. Interviews were conducted by telephone among a random sample of 2,002 adults 18 years of age or older in the entire United States (800 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International and the final sample was weighted to ensure proper representativeness.

The weighting was accomplished in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.² In the second stage, sample demographics were balanced by form to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2010 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the January-June 2012 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011 American Community Survey.

The sample weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample-weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error is +/- 2.6 percentage points for the general sample at the 95% confidence level. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context, and order effects.

² Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types.