

**Interviews: N=917 Likely Voters in Competitive  
U.S. House and Senate Races**  
**Interviewing Period: August 29 – September 7, 2014**  
**Margin of Error = ± 3.7% for Full Sample,  
± 5.3% House (n=456), ± 5.0% for Senate (n=461)**  
**Designed and Directed by: SocialSphere, Inc.**  
**Conducted by: GfK using sample from KnowledgePanel®**  
**Mode: Online (in English and Spanish)**



*Note: The sum of percentages for each question may not add up to 100% as each response is rounded to the nearest percent.*

1. We understand that plenty of people are not registered to vote, but we are wondering if you are registered to vote?

Yes..... 100%

2. Are you registered to vote at your home address?

Yes..... 100%

3. How likely is it that you will vote in the general midterm elections for Congress in November?

Definitely will be voting..... 79%

Probably will be voting ..... 21%

4. Regardless of how likely you are to vote, how enthusiastic are you about this election?

**NET: Not Enthusiastic ..... 11%**

0 - Not at all enthusiastic..... 5%

1 ..... 2%

2 ..... 4%

3 ..... 6%

4 ..... 7%

5 ..... 21%

6 ..... 13%

7 ..... 13%

**NET: Enthusiastic ..... 28%**

8 ..... 9%

9 ..... 4%

10 - Extremely enthusiastic..... 15%

Decline to answer ..... 1%

5. When it comes to voting, with which party do you consider yourself to be affiliated?

<b>NET: Democrat .....</b>	<b>35%</b>
Strong Democrat .....	21%
Not a very strong Democrat .....	14%
<b>NET: Republican .....</b>	<b>35%</b>
Strong Republican .....	22%
Not a very strong Republican .....	13%
<b>NET: Independent/Unaffiliated .....</b>	<b>30%</b>
Leans Democrat .....	10%
Leans Republican .....	9%
Does not lean either way .....	11%
Decline to answer .....	*

6. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or are you not a supporter of the Tea Party movement?

Supporter .....	19%
Not a supporter .....	57%
Not sure .....	24%
Decline to answer .....	*

7. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are...?

Generally headed in the right direction ...	19%
Off on the wrong track .....	54%
Not sure what direction the country is headed in .....	27%
Decline to answer .....	*

8. Thinking ahead several years, is your outlook about the United States generally optimistic or generally pessimistic?

Optimistic .....	47%
Pessimistic .....	52%
Decline to answer .....	1%

9. Thinking about national issues for a moment, which issue concerns you most?  
(Open-ended question – coded responses)

<b>NET: Economy</b> .....	<b>35%</b>
Economy - General .....	17%
Jobs.....	8%
National debt/ budget/government spending .....	4%
Financial stability.....	3%
Economic equality/inequality.....	2%
Taxes .....	1%
<b>NET: National Security</b> .....	<b>19%</b>
National Security/ war/ defense cuts .....	12%
Terrorism.....	7%
Health care - General.....	10%
Immigration .....	6%
Government/ political corruption .....	4%
Education .....	3%
Foreign Affairs.....	3%
President Obama/lack of leadership. ....	3%
Social/religious problems .....	3%
Environment.....	2%
Lack of moral values. ....	2%
Socialism.....	1%
Social Security. ....	*
Other .....	9%
None.....	1%
Don't know .....	1%
Declined to answer .....	3%

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of:

10. Barack Obama as president.

<b>NET: Approve</b> .....	<b>44%</b>
Strongly approve.....	15%
Somewhat approve .....	28%
<b>NET: Disapprove</b> .....	<b>56%</b>
Somewhat disapprove .....	15%
Strongly disapprove .....	41%
Decline to answer .....	1%

11. The Democrats in Congress.

<b>NET: Approve</b> .....	<b>35%</b>
Strongly approve .....	6%
Somewhat approve .....	28%
<b>NET: Disapprove</b> .....	<b>65%</b>
Somewhat disapprove .....	27%
Strongly disapprove .....	38%
Decline to answer .....	*

12. The Republicans in Congress.

<b>NET: Approve</b> .....	<b>27%</b>
Strongly approve .....	3%
Somewhat approve .....	23%
<b>NET: Disapprove</b> .....	<b>73%</b>
Somewhat disapprove .....	33%
Strongly disapprove .....	39%
Decline to answer .....	*

13. If the election for the [U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate] were held today, would you vote for the [Democratic candidate] or the [Republican candidate] in [your district/your state]?

Democratic candidate .....	39%
Republican candidate .....	38%
Don't know .....	24%
Decline to answer .....	-

**[If “Don’t know” in Q13, ask]**

14. As of now, do you lean toward the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

	(n=218)
Lean: Democratic candidate .....	16%
Lean: Republican candidate .....	15%
Don't know .....	69%
Decline to answer .....	-

**2014 Election Vote With Leaners Allocated**

Democratic candidate .....	42%
Republican candidate .....	41%
Don't know .....	16%

15. Which of the following comes closest to your own view regarding the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?

Keep the law as it is .....	17%
Keep the law, but with modifications .....	38%
Repeal the law .....	44%
Decline to answer .....	1%

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy

<b>NET: Approve</b> .....	<b>42%</b>
Strongly approve .....	15%
Somewhat approve .....	27%

<b>NET: Disapprove</b> .....	<b>57%</b>
Somewhat disapprove .....	20%
Strongly disapprove .....	37%

Decline to answer ..... \*

17. Which party do you trust more to handle the economy, the Democratic party or the Republican party?

Democratic party .....	36%
Republican party .....	36%

Not sure..... 28%  
Decline to answer ..... \*

18. How important is the economy in determining which candidate you support in November?

<b>NET: Important</b> .....	<b>92%</b>
Very important.....	53%
Somewhat important .....	39%

<b>NET: Not important</b> .....	<b>8%</b>
Not very important.....	7%
Not at all important.....	1%

Decline to answer ..... \*

19. Compared to one year ago, do you believe your personal financial situation is better, worse or the same?

Better.....	23%
Worse.....	30%
Same.....	47%
Decline to answer .....	*

20. Do you feel like you have enough savings for an unexpected job loss or an unforeseen negative financial event?

Yes.....	38%
No.....	61%
Decline to answer .....	1%

21. Has the rising cost of basic household items, such as gas and groceries created financial stress for you?

Yes.....	62%
No.....	38%
Decline to answer .....	*

22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling immigration?

<b>NET: Approve .....</b>	<b>35%</b>
Strongly approve.....	10%
Somewhat approve .....	26%
<b>NET: Disapprove .....</b>	<b>64%</b>
Somewhat disapprove .....	20%
Strongly disapprove .....	44%
Decline to answer .....	*

23. Which party do you trust more to handle immigration, the Democratic party or the Republican party?

Democratic party.....	31%
Republican party.....	34%
Not sure.....	35%
Decline to answer .....	*

24. Do you support or oppose comprehensive immigration reform?

<b>NET: Support</b> .....	<b>66%</b>
Strongly support.....	28%
Somewhat support.....	38%
<b>NET: Oppose</b> .....	<b>33%</b>
Somewhat oppose.....	19%
Strongly oppose.....	14%
Decline to answer.....	2%

25. How important is the issue of comprehensive immigration reform in determining which candidate you support in November?

<b>NET: Important</b> .....	<b>75%</b>
Very important.....	27%
Somewhat important.....	48%
<b>NET: Not important</b> .....	<b>25%</b>
Not very important.....	20%
Not at all important.....	5%
Decline to answer.....	*

26. Based on what you know at this point, do you support having the immigrant children who came unaccompanied to the U.S stay in the U.S. after the appropriate judicial hearings, or do you support deporting them?

Support having them stay.....	29%
Support deporting them.....	49%
Don't know.....	20%
Decline to answer.....	1%

27. Overall, do you support or oppose a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants now living in the United States?

Support.....	51%
Oppose.....	49%
Decline to answer.....	1%

28. Since Barack Obama took office in 2009, have race relations in the U.S. gotten better, gotten worse – or have they stayed about the same?

Better.....	6%
Worse.....	46%
Same.....	48%
Decline to answer.....	*

29. In general, do you like to talk about current events with your friends?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Yes.....                | 64% |
| No.....                 | 36% |
| Decline to answer ..... | -   |
30. Do you have the feeling that your friends and neighbors generally regard you as a good source of advice about current events?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Yes.....                | 57% |
| No.....                 | 41% |
| Decline to answer ..... | 2%  |
31. In the last year, have you posted political-oriented content or commentary on a social media site?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Yes.....                | 18% |
| No.....                 | 81% |
| Decline to answer ..... | 1%  |
32. In the past 2 years have you been an active participant in a civic, community or political organization?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Yes.....                | 19% |
| No.....                 | 80% |
| Decline to answer ..... | 1%  |
33. In the past 2 years have you donated money to a political or issues-based cause?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Yes.....                | 23% |
| No.....                 | 77% |
| Decline to answer ..... | -   |
34. When it comes to most political issues, do you think of yourself as a...?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Liberal .....           | 17% |
| Moderate .....          | 42% |
| Conservative .....      | 40% |
| Decline to answer ..... | 1%  |



**[If “Moderate” in Q34, ask]**

35. As a moderate, which way do you lean?

	(n=386)
Liberal .....	24%
Moderate .....	44%
Conservative .....	30%
Decline to answer .....	1%

36. What is your religion?

Protestant (e.g., Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal) .....	25%
Catholic .....	22%
Baptist-any denomination .....	17%
Pentecostal .....	4%
Jewish .....	2%
Mormon .....	2%
Hindu .....	*
Eastern Orthodox .....	*
Other Christian .....	10%
Other non-Christian .....	3%
None .....	14%

**[If anything except “None” in Q36, ask]**

37. How important is religion in your own life?

	(n=786)
Very important .....	61%
Somewhat important .....	26%
Not very important .....	12%
Not sure .....	1%
Decline to answer .....	*

**[If “Baptist,” “Protestant,” “Catholic,” “Pentecostal,” or “Other Christian” in Q36, ask]**

38. Do you consider yourself a born-again, or evangelical Christian?

	(n=723)
Yes .....	43%
No .....	45%
Not sure .....	6%
Decline to answer .....	7%

39. How often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week .....	14%
Once a week .....	25%
Once or twice a month .....	8%
A few times a year .....	17%
Once a year .....	3%
Less than once a year.....	14%
Never.....	19%
Decline to answer .....	*

40. Are you or is any member of your household a union member?

Yes.....	18%
No.....	81%
Decline to answer .....	*

**[If “Yes” in Q40, ask]**

41. Is the union that you or a household member belongs to a public employee union or a labor union?

	(n=168)
Public employee union .....	37%
Labor union .....	50%
Both.....	12%
Decline to answer .....	-

42. Age

18-24 .....	4%
25-34 .....	14%
35-44 .....	15%
45-54 .....	14%
55-64 .....	27%
65-74 .....	17%
75+ .....	8%

43. Highest level of education

Less than high school .....	5%
High school .....	30%
Some college .....	31%
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	35%

44.	Race / Ethnicity	
	White, Non-Hispanic .....	79%
	Black, Non-Hispanic.....	12%
	Hispanic .....	4%
	Other, Non-Hispanic.....	4%
	2+ Races, Non-Hispanic .....	1%
45.	Gender	
	Male .....	49%
	Female .....	51%
46.	Housing	
	A one-family house detached from any other house .....	77%
	A one-family house attached to one or more houses .....	8%
	A building with 2 or more apartments .....	12%
	A mobile home .....	4%
	Boat, RV, van, etc. ....	*
47.	Household Income	
	Less than \$20,000 .....	10%
	\$20,000 to \$49,999 .....	25%
	\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	19%
	\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	16%
	Over \$100,000 .....	29%
48.	Marital Status	
	Married .....	61%
	Never married .....	16%
	Divorced .....	10%
	Widowed .....	6%
	Living with partner .....	6%
	Separated .....	1%
49.	Region	
	New England.....	3%
	Mid-Atlantic .....	8%
	East-North Central .....	16%
	West-North Central .....	12%
	South Atlantic.....	29%
	East South Central.....	3%
	West-South Central.....	7%
	Mountain .....	11%
	Pacific.....	10%

## 50. Ownership Status of Living Quarters

Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household.....	79%
Rented for cash.....	19%
Occupied without payment of cash rent..	2%

## 51. Current Employment Status

Working – as a paid employee.....	50%
Working – self-employed .....	8%
Not working – on a temporary layoff .....	1%
Not working – looking for work .....	4%
Not working - retired.....	25%
Not working - disabled .....	6%
Not working – other .....	7%

## 52. Language of Interview

English .....	99%
Spanish .....	1%

## 53. Household Internet Access

Yes.....	83%
No.....	17%

Methodology

Partnering with SocialSphere, Inc., of Cambridge, Massachusetts – which designed and directed the survey – POLITICO surveyed 917 likely voters in the states and districts with the most competitive Senate and House races, as ranked by the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Conducted from August 29 – September 7, the survey was administered on the web by GfK, using a sample from KnowledgePanel®, a large, national, probability-based online-survey panel. Respondents completed the online survey in English and Spanish; the average completion time was 8 minutes.

While the polls are completed online, KnowledgePanel®'s sampling frame includes Americans living in households without Internet access. GfK sends mailers – in English and Spanish – to random addresses in the U.S. Postal Service's database. Recruits can join the panel by mailing back a form, calling a toll-free phone number or visiting a website. GfK provides those who want to join the panel but don't have Internet access with a computer and/or free Internet access.

This sampling method addresses some criticisms of online polls—namely, that respondents are self-selecting. Unlike so-called “opt-in” panels—for which firms recruit members via pop-up ads or ads on websites—which anyone can join, KnowledgePanel® is only comprised of those Americans randomly selected through GfK's address-based sampling. A design summary for KnowledgePanel® is available here: [http://marketing.gfkamerica.com/knowledgenetworks/knpanel/docs/KnowledgePanel\(R\)-Design-Summary-Description.pdf](http://marketing.gfkamerica.com/knowledgenetworks/knpanel/docs/KnowledgePanel(R)-Design-Summary-Description.pdf)

The margin of error for the full sample is plus-or-minus 3.7 percentage points. For likely voters in competitive Senate states, the margin of error is plus-or-minus 5.0 percentage points. For likely voters in competitive House districts, the margin of error is plus-or-minus 5.3 percentage points.

Likely voters were surveyed in the following states with competitive Senate elections: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia and West Virginia.

Additionally, likely voters were surveyed in the following competitive House districts: Arizona-01, Arizona-02, Arizona-09, Arkansas-02, Arkansas-04, California-07, California-10, California-21, California-26, California-31, California-36, California-52, Colorado-06, Connecticut-05, Florida-02, Florida-18, Florida-26, Georgia-12, Illinois-10, Illinois-11, Illinois-12, Illinois-13, Illinois-17, Indiana-02, Iowa-01, Iowa-02, Iowa-03, Iowa-04, Maine-02, Massachusetts-06, Michigan-01, Michigan-07, Michigan-08, Minnesota-02, Minnesota-07, Minnesota-08, Montana-AL, Nebraska-02, Nevada-03, Nevada-04, New Hampshire-01, New Hampshire-02, New Jersey-02, New Jersey-03, New Mexico-02, New York-01, New York-11, New York-18, New York-19, New York-21, New York-23, New York-24, Ohio-06, Ohio-14, Pennsylvania-06, Pennsylvania-08, Texas-23, Virginia-02, Virginia-10, West Virginia-02, West Virginia-03 and Wisconsin-06.