



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

FIRST FOCUS NATIONAL SURVEY Interview Schedule

CONFIDENTIAL

Field Dates: September 10-13, 2012

Project #12716

N= 800 Likely Voters

655 landline / 145 cell

Margin of Error = \pm 3.46%

** Denotes result less than 0.5%*

^ Denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

A. Are you registered to vote at this address?

100% YES (**CONTINUE TO QUESTION B**)

B. While I know it is a long way off, how likely would you say you are to vote in the November elections in 2012? ... (**ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**)

94% VERY LIKELY

6% SOMEWHAT LIKELY

C. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, or a political party, or by a candidate for political office?

100% NO

Before we begin a few questions about yourself...

1. In what year were you born?

5%	18 - 24
16%	25 - 34
23%	35 - 44
14%	45 - 54
19%	55 - 64
19%	65 AND ABOVE
3%	REFUSED

2. Would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

35%	RIGHT DIRECTION
59%	WRONG TRACK
6%	NO OPINION (DO NOT READ)
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President?

(**IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE, ASK:**) And would you say you **STRONGLY** (approve/disapprove) or just **SOMEWHAT** (approve/disapprove)?

29%	STRONGLY APPROVE
19%	SOMEWHAT APPROVE
9%	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
40%	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE
2%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
48%	TOTAL APPROVE
49%	TOTAL DISAPPROVE

Changing topics...

4. Compared to ten years ago, do you think the lives of American children have **(ROTATE)** gotten better, gotten worse, or not changed?

20% GOTTEN BETTER
56% GOTTEN WORSE
21% NOT CHANGED

2% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
1% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

5. And, do you feel confident or not confident that life for our children's generation will be better than it has been for us?

(IF CONFIDENT/NOT CONFIDENT, ASK:) And, do you feel **STRONGLY** that way or not?

15% STRONGLY CONFIDENT
22% CONFIDENT
38% NOT CONFIDENT
19% STRONGLY NOT CONFIDENT

5% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
1% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

36%^ TOTAL CONFIDENT
58%^ TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT

Thinking about some issues...

6. How concerned are you about the issue of the federal budget deficit...are you...**(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP:)**

62% VERY CONCERNED
29% SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
6% NOT VERY CONCERNED
...or...
3% NOT AT ALL CONCERNED

1% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**

91% TOTAL CONCERNED
9% TOTAL NOT CONCERNED

Thinking again about the election in November...

7. And, how much will a candidate's position on federal budget issues affecting children impact your decision on whether to vote for that candidate? Will it...(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP:)

40% SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT YOUR DECISION
42% SOMEWHAT AFFECT YOUR DECISION
16% NOT AFFECT YOUR DECISION

2% DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
* REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

82% TOTAL AFFECT

Thinking more about the candidates and the national political party conventions...

8. How much if any have you seen, read, or heard from the candidates for President over the last two or three weeks talk about children's issues? Is it...

12% A LOT
33% SOME
37% NOT MUCH ...OR...
16% NOTHING AT ALL

2% DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER (DO NOT READ)

44%^ TOTAL A LOT/SOME/NOT MUCH

54%^ TOTAL NOT MUCH/NOTHING

(IF Q8:1-3, ASK:) (ASKED OF 655 VOTERS)

9. And, over the last two or three weeks would you say the candidates for President are focusing...(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP:)

63% Not enough attention
28% Just the right amount of attention ...or...
4% Too much attention

...on children's issues?

5% DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1% REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

Now I'd like you to compare (**ROTATE**)Barack Obama and Mitt Romney on a specific issue. Please tell me whether you think that (**ROTATE**) Barack Obama or Mitt Romney would be better on that issue. If you think that both would be equally good or that neither would be good on the particular issue, just say so.

	ROMNEY	OBAMA	BOTH	NEITHER	DK (DNR)	REF (DNR)
10.	32%	42%	12%	10%	5%	*

11. Thinking more about the federal government's budget, what percent of the budget do you think the federal government SHOULD spend on children, of course you can choose any number between one and one hundred percent, if you think less than one percent please just let me know? (**RECORD ACTUAL PERCENT**) (**USE 998 FOR DK AND 999 FOR REF**)

10%	>50
14%	31 - 50
14%	21 - 30
25%	10 - 20
20%	<10
13%	DON'T KNOW
4%	REFUSED
28	MEAN

Still thinking about the federal government's budget...

(SPLIT SAMPLE ASK SAMPLE A: Q12) (ASKED OF 402 VOTERS)

12. Now, thinking about all of the priorities of the federal government and the budget, if you had to choose, do you think when making budget decisions the federal government should focus more on...(ROTATE) the needs of children or the needs of the elderly?

26% THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN
8% LEAN THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN
5% LEAN THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY
15% THE NEED OF THE ELDERLY

41% BOTH (IF SELECT, PROMPT:) IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHICH WAY WOULD YOU LEAN?
3% NEITHER (IF SELECT, PROMPT:) IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHICH WAY WOULD YOU LEAN?)

1% DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1% REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

34%^ TOTAL CHILDREN
20% TOTAL ELDERLY

(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE B: Q13) (ASKED OF 398 VOTERS)

13. Now, thinking about all of the priorities of the federal government and the budget, if you had to choose, do you think when making budget decisions the federal government should focus more on...(ROTATE) the needs of children or the needs of the military?

38% THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN
4% LEAN THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN
5% LEAN THE NEEDS OF THE MILITARY
23% THE NEED OF THE MILITARY

27% BOTH (IF SELECT, PROMPT:) IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHICH WAY WOULD YOU LEAN?
2% NEITHER (IF SELECT, PROMPT:) IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHICH WAY WOULD YOU LEAN?)

1% DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1% REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

42% TOTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN
28% TOTAL NEEDS OF THE MILITARY

14. Now thinking about how different issues affect you and the community in which you live...thinking specifically about children who do NOT have health insurance coverage...how much of a problem, if at all, would you say this is in your community, is it...(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP:)

25% A BIG PROBLEM
25% A MEDIUM PROBLEM
24% A SMALL PROBLEM ...OR...
21% NOT REALLY A PROBLEM AT ALL?

5% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)
* REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

74% TOTAL PROBLEM

Talking now about one program, called the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP which is a federal and state partnership that provides health care to lower and moderate income children whose families make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to afford private health insurance coverage. CHIP ensures children can get immunizations, regular check-ups, routine care like prescription drug and inhalers for kids with diabetes or asthma, and speciality care for serious illnesses like cancer.

15. Due to the federal budget deficit some in Congress are considering making spending cuts to CHIP, costing three hundred thousand children their health insurance coverage. Do you favor or oppose Congress making these spending cuts to CHIP?

(**IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:**) And do you **STRONGLY** (favor/oppose) or only **SOMEWHAT** (favor/oppose) it?

8% **STRONGLY FAVOR**
9% **SOMEWHAT FAVOR**
19% **SOMEWHAT OPPOSE**
55% **STRONGLY OPPOSE**

9% **DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)**
* **REFUSED (DO NOT READ)**

17% TOTAL FAVOR
74% TOTAL OPPOSE

(IF Q15:1-2, ASK:) (ASKED OF 139 VOTERS)

16. Because of the economic recession many hard-working parents lost their jobs causing over three point nine million children to lose employer-sponsored health insurance. However many of these children were able to qualify and receive temporary health insurance coverage under CHIP. Based on this information would you say still favor the spending cuts to CHIP or does this information make you now oppose the cuts?

80% YES, STILL FAVOR
18% NO, OPPOSE CUTS

2% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)
1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

- 15/16. Combined Choices.

6% STRONGLY FAVOR
7% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
22% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
58% STRONGLY OPPOSE

9% DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

14%^ TOTAL FAVOR
77% TOTAL OPPOSE

17. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement...Babies not covered by their parents health insurance at birth should automatically be enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.

(IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK:) And, do you STRONGLY (agree/disagree) or only SOMEWHAT (agree/disagree)?

47% STRONGLY AGREE
24% SOMEWHAT AGREE
9% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
14% STRONGLY DISAGREE

5% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)
* REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

72%^ TOTAL AGREE
23% TOTAL DISAGREE

Now for the federal government to focus more on children's issues it would require additional spending or cutting spending in other areas. I am going to read you a series of possible trade-offs Congress is considering to focus more on children's issues. After I read each trade-off, please tell me whether you think it is an acceptable or unacceptable trade-off to have the federal government focus more on children's issues.

(IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:) And do you think (INSERT TRADE-OFF) is a VERY (acceptable/unacceptable) trade-off in order to have the federal government focus more on children's issues or is it just SOMEWHAT (acceptable/not acceptable)?

Very Acceptable	Somewhat Acceptable	Somewhat Unacceptable	Very Unacceptable	DK (DNR)	REF (DNR)
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The (first/next) one is (RANDOMIZE)...

(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE A: Q18-20) (ASKED OF 402 VOTERS)

18.	Raising taxes on people who make more than five hundred thousand dollars a year	51%	23%	11%	14%	1%	*
		74%		24%			

19.	Cutting spending on other federal government programs	25%	40%	17%	10%	8%	1%
		65%		27%			

20.	Cutting spending on the military	16%	20%	15%	48%	1%	*
		36%		63%			

(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE B: Q21-24) (ASKED OF 398 VOTERS)

21.	Closing corporate tax loopholes	55%	22%	8%	10%	4%	*
		77%		18%			

22.	Cutting spending on subsidies for oil companies and other big corporations	52%	25%	10%	11%	2%	--
		77%		21%			

23.	Cutting spending on entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare	8%	21%	15%	53%	2%	*
		30%		68%			

24.	Raising taxes on corporate stock sales to the same level as people earning fifty thousand dollars a year	36%	27%	17%	16%	4%	*
		63%		32%[^]			

Thinking more about Congress...

In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, Congress is considering reducing funding to federal government programs. I'm going to read you a list of areas under consideration for cuts. For each one please tell me if you approve or disapprove of Congress reducing funding for that specific program or area.

(IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE, ASK:) And, do you **STRONGLY** (approve/disapprove) or only **SOMEWHAT** (approve/disapprove)?

STRG APPV	SMWT APPV	SMWT DISAPPV	STRG DISAPPV	DK (DNR)	REF (DNR)
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The (first/next) statement...(RANDOMIZE:)

(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE A: 25-30) (ASKED OF 402 VOTERS)

25.	Defense and national security	15%	24%	15%	45%	*	*
		40%[^]		60%			
26.	Social Security	9%	12%	16%	60%	2%	1%
		21%		77%[^]			
27.	Medicare, which provides health care to seniors	11%	11%	19%	59%	1%	*
		22%		78%			
28.	Student loans and financial aid for college students	17%	23%	21%	38%	1%	*
		40%		59%			
29.	Education programs aimed at kindergarten to twelfth grade	12%	12%	21%	54%	1%	*
		24%		75%			
30.	Tax credits for working families with children, like the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit	16%	17%	22%	41%	3%	*
		34%[^]		63%			

	STRG APPV	SMWT APPV	SMWT DISAPPV	STRG DISAPPV	DK (DNR)	REF (DNR)
(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE B: Q33-38) (ASKED OF 398 VOTERS)						
31.	Medicaid, which provides health care to lower income seniors, the disabled, and children.					
	13%	14%	17%	56%	1%	--
	27%		73%			
32.	Tax breaks for big corporations					
	41%	17%	10%	29%	2%	1%
	58%		40%[^]			
33.	Roads and transportation					
	18%	25%	25%	32%	1%	*
	43%		57%			
34.	Head Start programs for pre-school children					
	20%	20%	19%	40%	1%	--
	40%		59%			
35.	Job training programs					
	18%	25%	25%	31%	1%	*
	43%		56%			
36.	Medical and scientific research					
	15%	21%	26%	38%	1%	*
	36%		63%[^]			
37.	Funding to make child care more affordable for working parents					
	24%	20%	21%	33%	2%	*
	44%		54%			
38.	Programs to prevent child abuse and neglect					
	18%	14%	16%	50%	1%	--
	33%[^]		66%			

42. Currently the federal government spends three hundred and seventy four billion dollars on children. Would you favor or oppose increasing the amount of money spent by the federal government on children's programs?

(IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:) And, do you **STRONGLY** (favor/oppose) or only **SOMEWHAT** (favor/oppose)?

28% STRONGLY FAVOR
30% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
20% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
15% STRONGLY OPPOSE

7% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)
1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

58% TOTAL FAVOR
35% TOTAL OPPOSE

Now, I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes only...

- D2. And what was the last grade you completed in school? (**DO NOT READ CATEGORIES**)

1% SOME GRADE SCHOOL (1-8)
4% SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)
20% GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)
4% TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (12)
23% SOME COLLEGE (13-15)
30% GRADUATED COLLEGE (16)
16% GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL (16+)

1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

25%^ HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS
27% SOME COLLEGE
47%^ COLLEGE+

D3. In politics today, do you usually think of yourself as... **(ROTATE TOP TWO)**

a Republican,
a Democrat,
...an Independent or something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, ASK) Would you call yourself a STRONG (Republican/Democrat) or a NOT-SO-STRONG (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF SOMETHING ELSE, ASK) Do you think of yourself as closer to... **(ROTATE)** the Republican party ...or... the Democratic party?

20% STRONG REPUBLICAN
7% NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
8% LEAN REPUBLICAN

25% SOMETHING ELSE/INDEPENDENT/UNDECLARED

7% LEAN DEMOCRAT
8% NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
22% STRONG DEMOCRAT

3% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

36%^ TOTAL REPUBLICAN
37% TOTAL DEMOCRAT

D4. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** conservative, moderate ...or... liberal ...on most issues?

(IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, ASK:) And would you say you are VERY (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL), or just SOMEWHAT (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)?

19% VERY CONSERVATIVE
22% SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

36% MODERATE

11% SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
8% VERY LIBERAL

2% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
2% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

41% TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
19% TOTAL LIBERAL

D5. Do you have children at home under the age of 18 you are responsible for raising who are not yet in college or the workforce?

39% YES
60% NO

2% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

(IF QD5:1, ASK:) (ASKED OF 311 VOTERS)

D6. And could you please tell me which one best describes your children (**RECORD ALL MENTIONS/ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES:**) My children are...

<u>Skip</u>	<u>Total</u>	
34%	13%	Not yet in kindergarten
51%	20%	Kindergarten through fifth grades
21%	8%	Sixth through eighth grades
27%	11%	Ninth through twelfth grades
7%	3%	Have graduated or left high school already
1%	*	NONE OF THESE (DO NOT READ)
--	--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D7. And, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Tea Party Movement, or do you not really know enough about it to have an opinion?

(IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK:) Would that be STRONGLY (favorable/unfavorable) or just SOMEWHAT (favorable/unfavorable)?

14% STRONGLY FAVORABLE
15% SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
8% SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
24% STRONGLY UNFAVORABLE

38% NO OPINION/DON'T KNOW
2% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

28%^ TOTAL FAVORABLE
32% TOTAL UNFAVORABLE

D8. Regardless of how you may feel today...for which of the following candidates did you vote for President... **(ROTATE 1 & 2)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Voted</u>	
43%	46%	John McCain
		...OR...
48%	52%	Barack Obama
--	--	Bob Barr (DO NOT READ)
1%	1%	Ralph Nader (DO NOT READ)
1%	1%	SOMEONE ELSE (DO NOT READ)
4%	--	DID NOT VOTE (DO NOT READ)
2%	--	DON'T KNOW/DON'T RECALL (DO NOT READ)
2%	--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D9. What is your current marital status?

16%	Single, never married
65%	Now married
3%	Living together, not married
7%	Divorced
1%	Separated
6%	Widowed
2%	Refused (DO NOT READ)
33%	TOTAL NOT MARRIED

D10. And for statistical purposes only...is your total annual household income greater or less than \$60,000 dollars?

(IF LESS THAN \$60,000, ASK:) Is it...
(ROTATE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

8% UNDER \$20,000
19% BETWEEN \$20,000 - \$40,000
13% OVER \$40,000

(IF GREATER THAN \$60,000, ASK:) Is it...
(ROTATE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

14% UNDER \$80,000
13% BETWEEN \$80,000 - \$100,000
23% OVER \$100,000

9% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

41%[^] UNDER \$60K
50% OVER \$60K

D11. Other than being an American, what is your main ethnic or racial heritage? **(READ CHOICES)**

12% AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK
71% WHITE
8% HISPANIC AMERICAN OR LATINO
2% ASIAN AMERICAN
6% OTHER **(DO NOT READ) (IF PUNCH , THEN ASK:)** Now I realize you just said your main ethnic or racial heritage doesn't fall into any of the categories I just mentioned...but if you had to choose JUST ONE of these categories, which ONE would you choose?

1% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

D12. GENDER **(BY OBSERVATION)**

48% MALE
52% FEMALE
