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BATTLEGROUND POLL
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THE POLITICO-GW BATTLEGROUND POLL

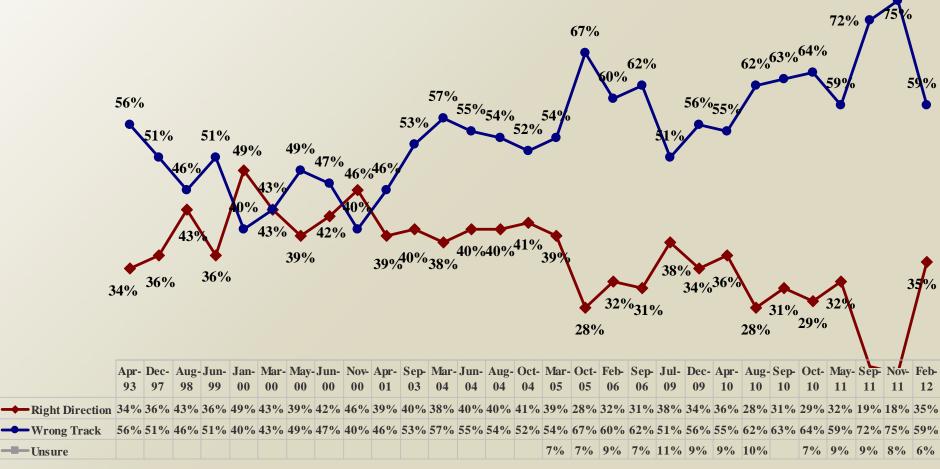## A national survey of 1,000 Registered "Likely" Voters

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WASHINGTON, DC

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Do you feel things in the country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

59%

35%

6%

Right direction   Unsure   Wrong track

Q1

THE TARRANCE GROUP LAKE RESEARCH
February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

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Do you feel things in the country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

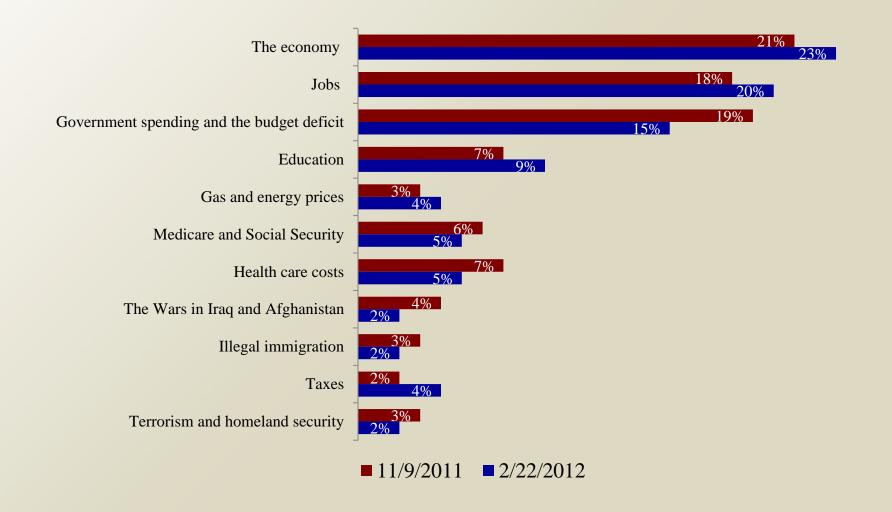|	Apr-93	Dec-97	Aug-98	Jun-99	Jan-00	Mar-00	May-00	Jun-00	Nov-00	Apr-01	Sep-03	Mar-04	Jun-04	Aug-04	Oct-04	Mar-05	Oct-05	Feb-06	Sep-06	Jul-09	Dec-09	Apr-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	May-11	Sep-11	Nov-11	Feb-12
Right Direction	34%	36%	43%	36%	49%	43%	39%	42%	46%	39%	40%	38%	40%	40%	41%	39%	28%	32%	31%	38%	34%	36%	28%	31%	29%	32%	19%	18%	35%
Wrong Track	56%	51%	46%	51%	40%	43%	49%	47%	40%	46%	53%	57%	55%	54%	52%	54%	67%	60%	62%	51%	56%	55%	62%	63%	64%	59%	72%	75%	59%
Unsure																7%	7%	9%	7%	11%	9%	9%	10%		7%	9%	9%	8%	6%

Q1

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February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

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Now I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for Congress to focus on. Please listen as I read the list and tell me which <u>one</u> issue you think is the next <u>most</u> important problem.
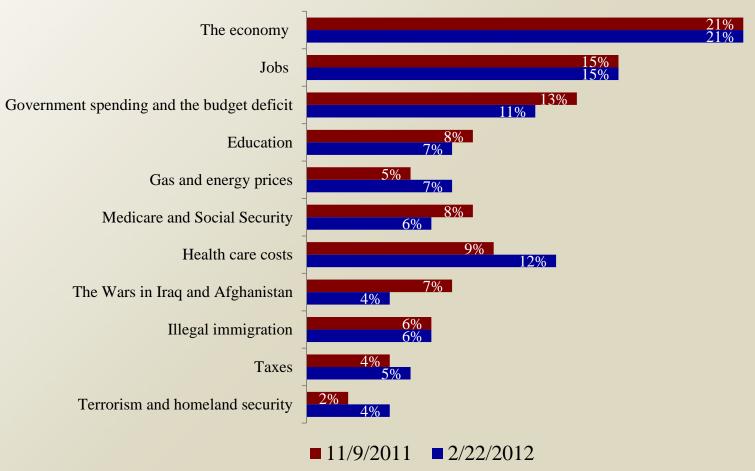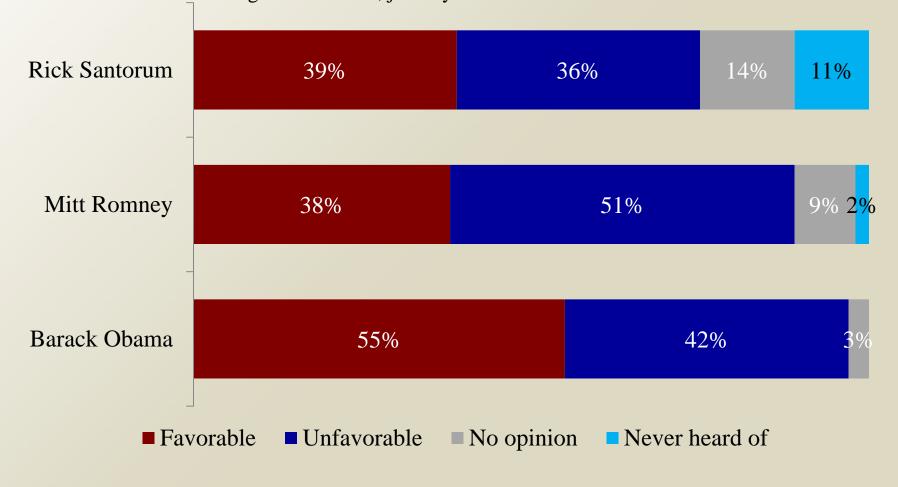

The economy — 21% / 23%
Jobs — 18% / 20%
Government spending and the budget deficit — 19% / 15%
Education — 7% / 9%
Gas and energy prices — 3% / 4%
Medicare and Social Security — 6% / 5%
Health care costs — 7% / 5%
The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — 4% / 2%
Illegal immigration — 3% / 2%
Taxes — 2% / 4%
Terrorism and homeland security — 3% / 2%

■ 11/9/2011   ■ 2/22/2012

Q3

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Now I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important for Congress to focus on. Please listen as I read the list and tell me which <u>one</u> issue you think is <u>next most</u> important.
(If choice made in Q2, Asked of N=924, or 92.4% of Sample)

	11/9/2011	2/22/2012
The economy	21%	21%
Jobs	15%	15%
Government spending and the budget deficit	13%	11%
Education	8%	7%
Gas and energy prices	5%	7%
Medicare and Social Security	8%	6%
Health care costs	9%	12%
The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	7%	4%
Illegal immigration	6%	6%
Taxes	4%	5%
Terrorism and homeland security	2%	4%

■ 11/9/2011   ■ 2/22/2012

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February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

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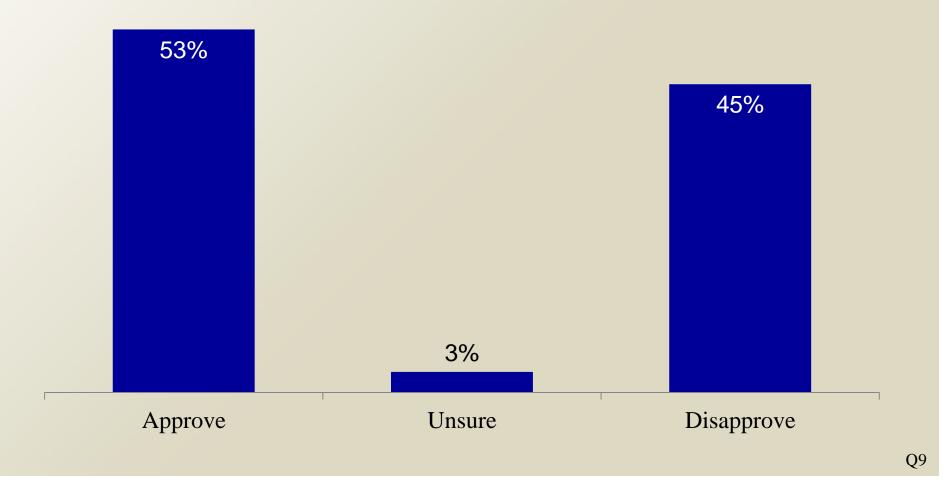Lake Research Partners • The Tarrance Group

Now I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and if so, whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. Here is the first one …
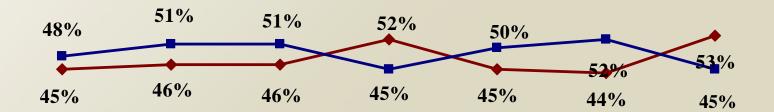
	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Never heard of
Rick Santorum	39%	36%	14%	11%
Mitt Romney	38%	51%	9%	2%
Barack Obama	55%	42%	3%	

■ Favorable   ■ Unfavorable   ■ No opinion   ■ Never heard of

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Now I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and if so, whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. Here is the first one …

Newt Gingrich

Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Never heard of
26%	62%	9%	3%

Ron Paul

Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion	Never heard of
31%	46%	17%	7%

■ Favorable   ■ Unfavorable   ■ No opinion   ■ Never heard of

Q7-8

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How would you rate the job Barack Obama has been doing as President? Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing?

53%

45%

3%

Approve

Unsure

Disapprove

Q9

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How would you rate the job Barack Obama has been doing as President? Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing?

	9/9/10	9/21/10	10/20/10	5/12/2011	9/1/2011	11/9/2011	2/22/2012
Approve	45%	46%	46%	52%	45%	44%	53%
Unsure	7%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	3%
Disapprove	48%	51%	51%	45%	50%	52%	45%

Q9

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February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

If the election for President were being held today, and you had to make a choice, would you be voting for the Republican candidate or President Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate?
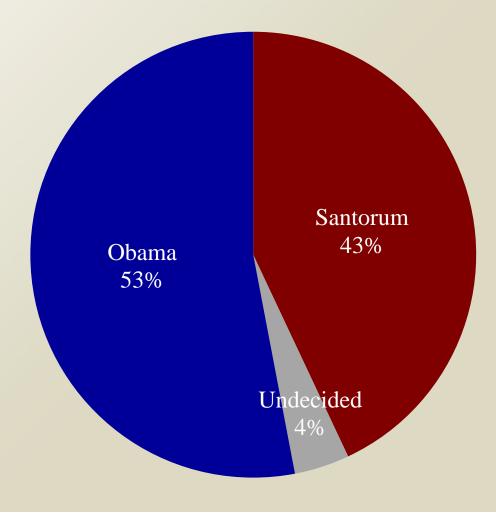

	Republican	Undecided	Obama
11/9/2011	44%	13%	43%
2/22/2012	44%	6%	49%

■ 11/9/2011   ■ 2/22/2012

Q12

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If the election for President were being held today, and you had to make a choice, would you be voting for Mitt Romney, the Republican, or Barack Obama, the Democratic?
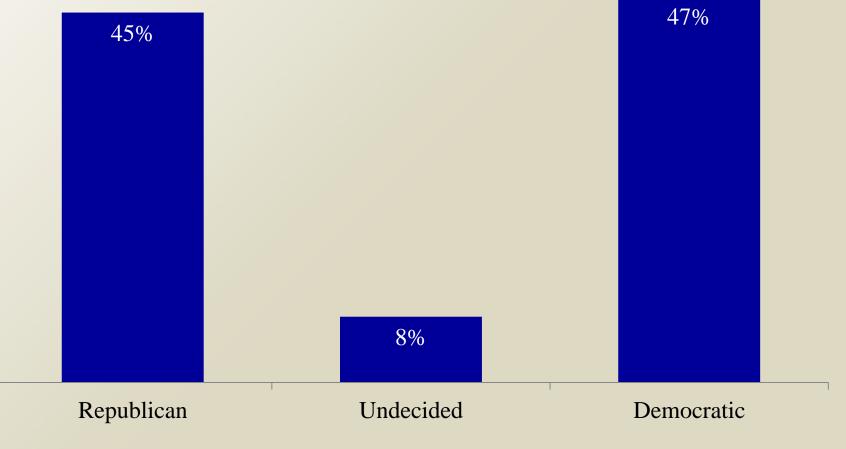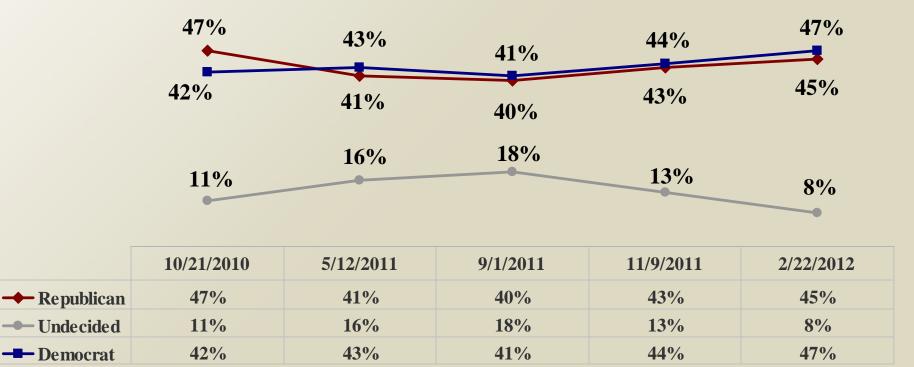

Romney	Undecided	Obama
43% 43%	9% 5%	48% 52%

■ 11/9/2011 ■ 2/22/2012

Q13

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February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

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If the Presidential election were held today and you had to make a choice, for whom would you vote, Rick Santorum, the Republican, or Barack Obama, the Democrat?

Santorum
43%

Obama
53%

Undecided
4%

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If the election for Congress were being held today, and you had to make a choice, would you be voting for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate, in your Congressional district?
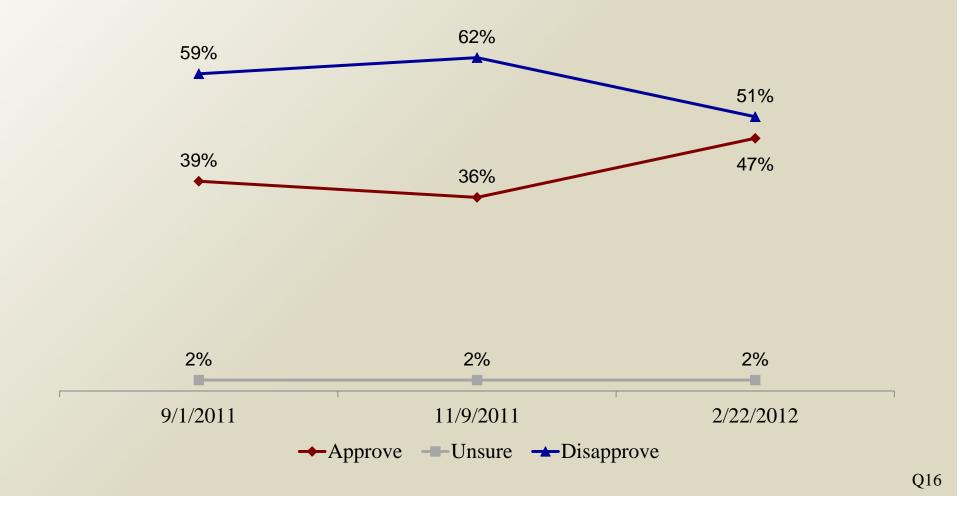
45%

47%

8%

Republican

Undecided

Democratic

Q15

And, still thinking about the 2012 elections, if the election for Congress were being held today, and you had to make a choice, would you be voting for, the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate, in your Congressional district?

	10/21/2010	5/12/2011	9/1/2011	11/9/2011	2/22/2012
Republican	47%	41%	40%	43%	45%
Undecided	11%	16%	18%	13%	8%
Democrat	42%	43%	41%	44%	47%

Q15

ISSUE HANDLING

THE TARRANCE GROUP LAKE RESEARCH
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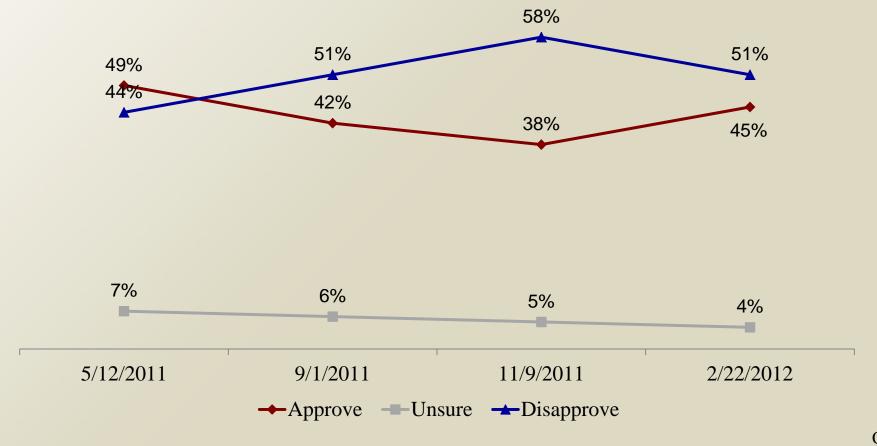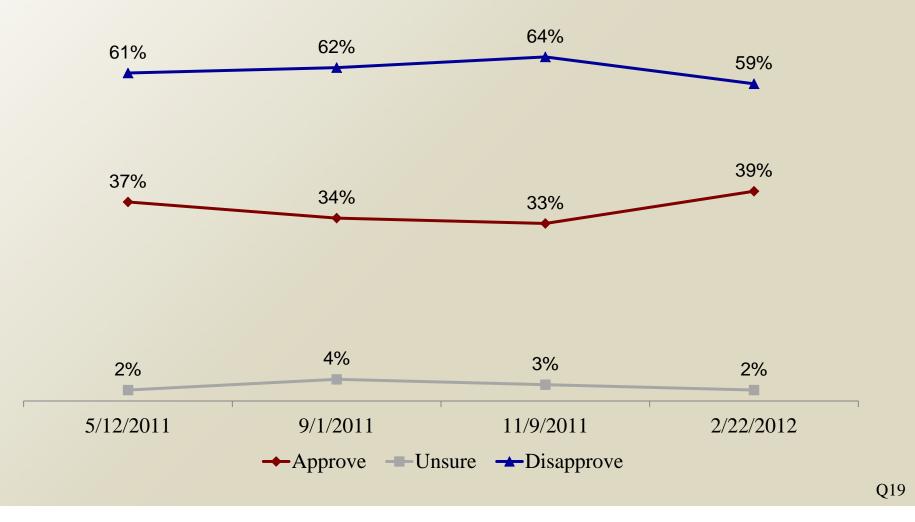Lake Research Partners • The Tarrance Group

I am going to read you several issues. For each one, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job that President Obama is doing on this issue.

The economy

	9/1/2011	11/9/2011	2/22/2012
Disapprove	59%	62%	51%
Approve	39%	36%	47%
Unsure	2%	2%	2%

◆ Approve ▬ Unsure ▲ Disapprove

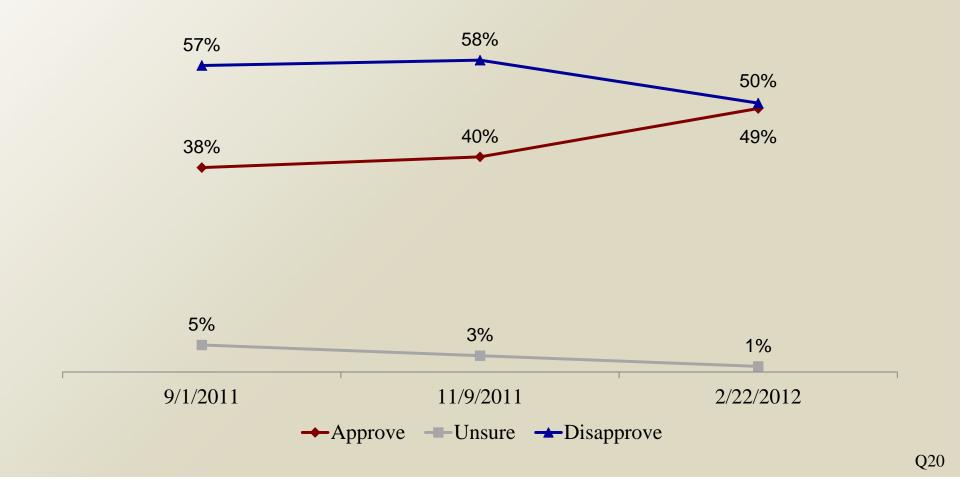February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

I am going to read you several issues. For each one, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job that President Obama is doing on this issue.
Foreign policy

55%   53%   55%   55%

39%   39%   39%   40%

8%
6%   6%   5%

5/12/2011   9/1/2011   11/9/2011   2/22/2012

◆ Approve   ■ Unsure   ▲ Disapprove

Q17

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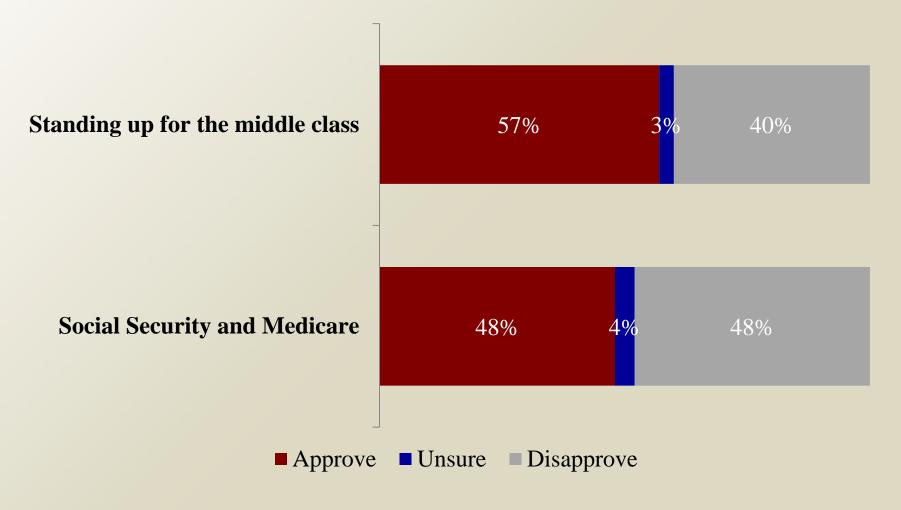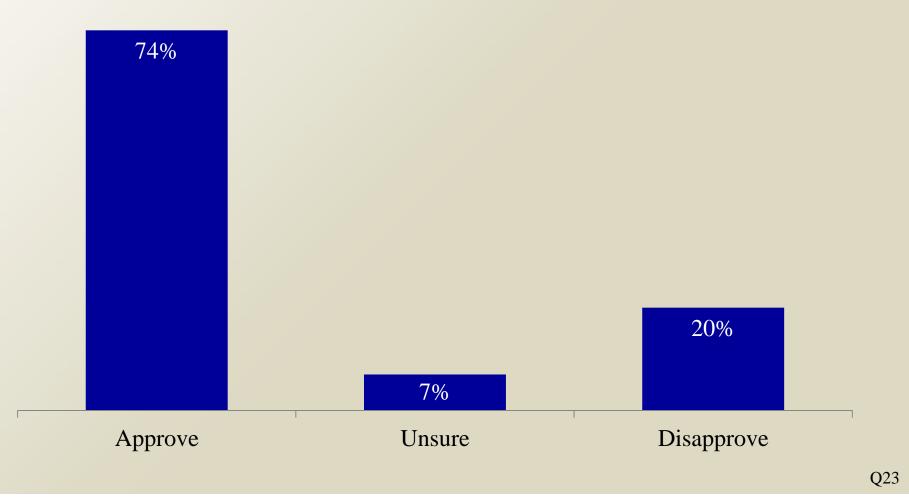Lake Research Partners • The Tarrance Group

I am going to read you several issues. For each one, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job that President Obama is doing on this issue.
The federal budget and spending

	5/12/2011	9/1/2011	11/9/2011	2/22/2012
Disapprove	61%	62%	64%	59%
Approve	37%	34%	33%	39%
Unsure	2%	4%	3%	2%

◆ Approve ■ Unsure ▲ Disapprove

Q19

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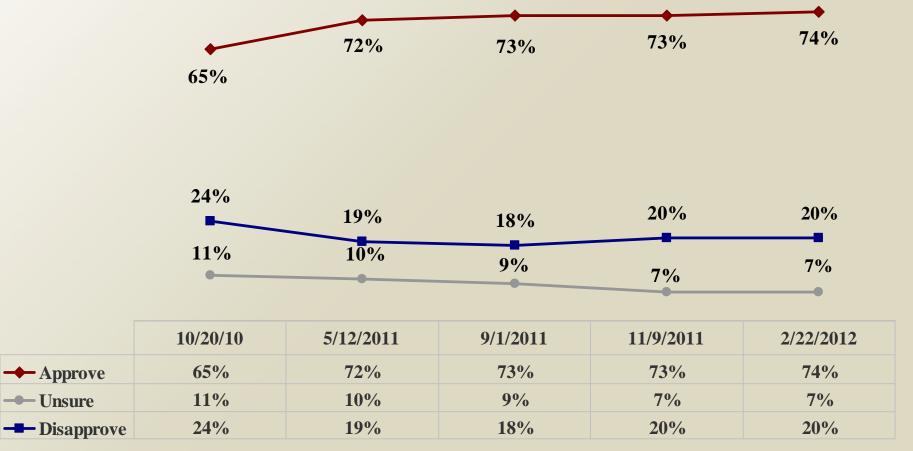February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

Whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President, what is your impression of Barack Obama as a person? Do you approve or disapprove of him?

74%

7%

20%

Approve   Unsure   Disapprove

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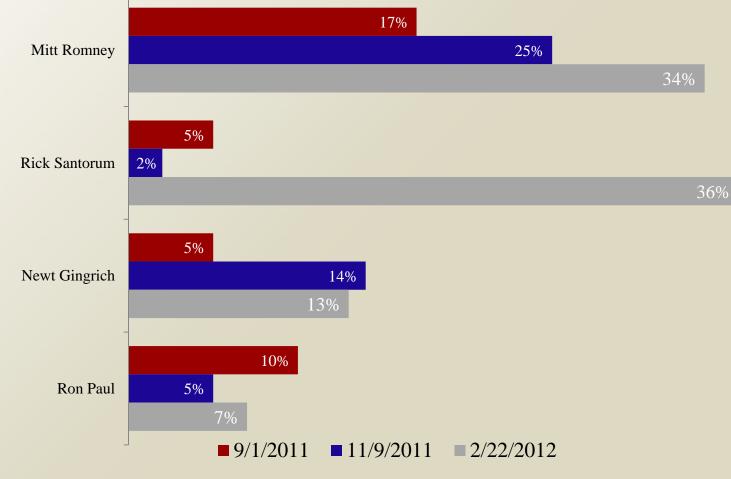February 19-22, 2012 / N=1,000 Registered "likely" voters / ±3.1% M.O.E.

Whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President, what is your impression of Barack Obama as a person? Do you approve or disapprove of him?

72%   73%   73%   74%

65%

24%   19%   18%   20%   20%

11%   10%   9%   7%   7%

	10/20/10	5/12/2011	9/1/2011	11/9/2011	2/22/2012
Approve	65%	72%	73%	73%	74%
Unsure	11%	10%	9%	7%	7%
Disapprove	24%	19%	18%	20%	20%

Q23

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Who would you say is your first choice to be the Republican nominee for President?
(Asked of Republicans only)

Mitt Romney
- 17%
- 25%
- 34%

Rick Santorum
- 5%
- 2%
- 36%

Newt Gingrich
- 5%
- 14%
- 13%

Ron Paul
- 10%
- 5%
- 7%

■ 9/1/2011   ■ 11/9/2011   ■ 2/22/2012

* Bachmann, Perry, Cain, and Huntsman included in 9/11 and 11/11 surveys

Q24

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If for some reason, the candidate that you mentioned chose not to run, which of the other candidates would be your next choice?
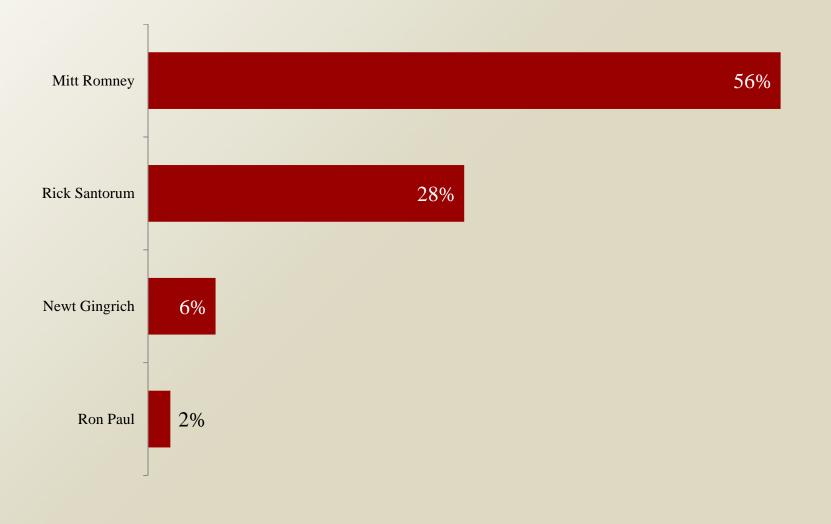*(Asked of Republicans only)*

Mitt Romney — 20% (11/9/2011), 27% (2/22/2012)
Rick Santorum — 4% (11/9/2011), 34% (2/22/2012)
Newt Gingrich — 20% (11/9/2011), 22% (2/22/2012)
Ron Paul — 8% (11/9/2011), 10% (2/22/2012)

■ 11/9/2011   ■ 2/22/2012

* Bachmann, Perry, Cain, and Huntsman included in 9/11 and 11/11 surveys

Q25

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No matter who you think you might support, which of the candidates do you think has the best chance to be elected President?
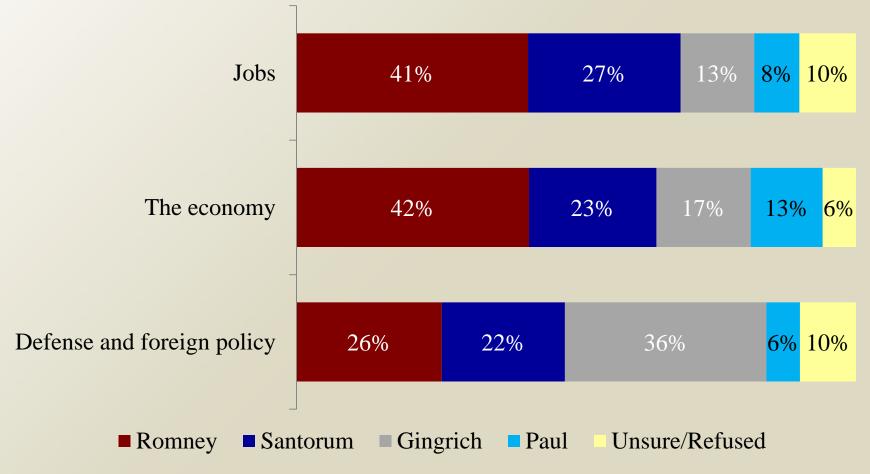*(Asked of Republicans only)*

Candidate	Percentage
Mitt Romney	56%
Rick Santorum	28%
Newt Gingrich	6%
Ron Paul	2%

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Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, which candidate would best handle this issue , Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich, or Ron Paul.
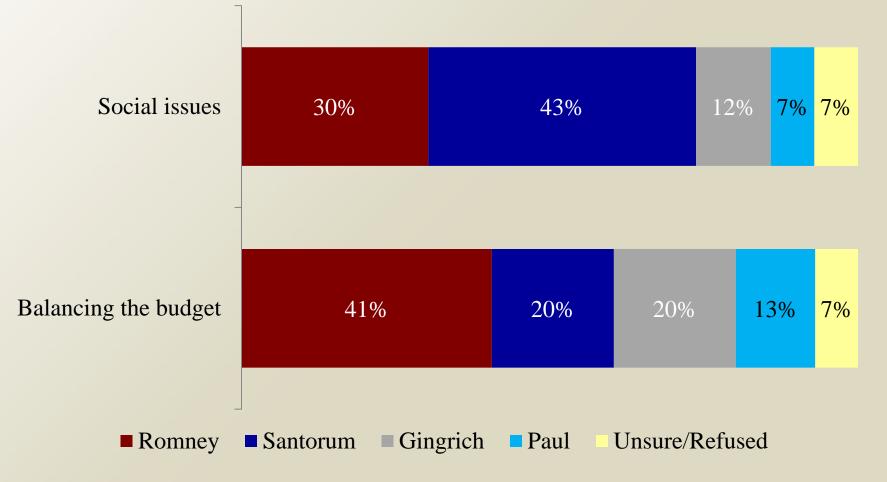
(Asked of Republicans only)

Issue	Romney	Santorum	Gingrich	Paul	Unsure/Refused
Jobs	41%	27%	13%	8%	10%
The economy	42%	23%	17%	13%	6%
Defense and foreign policy	26%	22%	36%	6%	10%

■ Romney ■ Santorum ■ Gingrich ■ Paul ■ Unsure/Refused

Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, which candidate would best handle this issue , Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich, or Ron Paul.
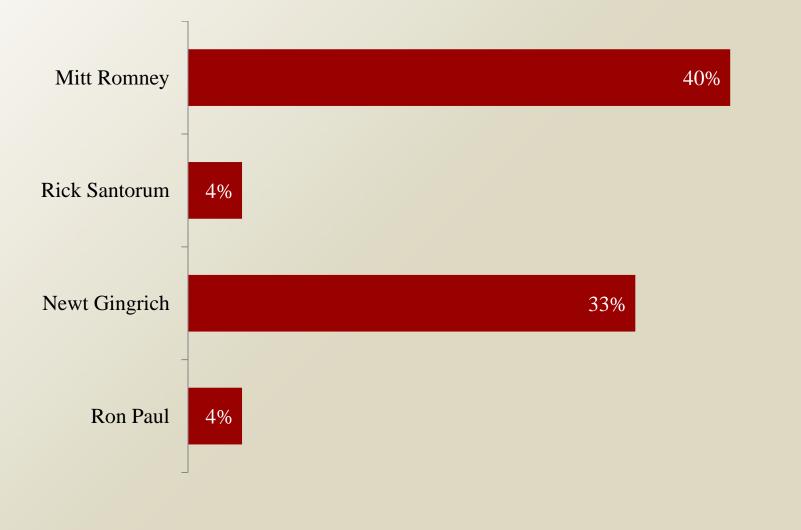*(Asked of Republicans only)*

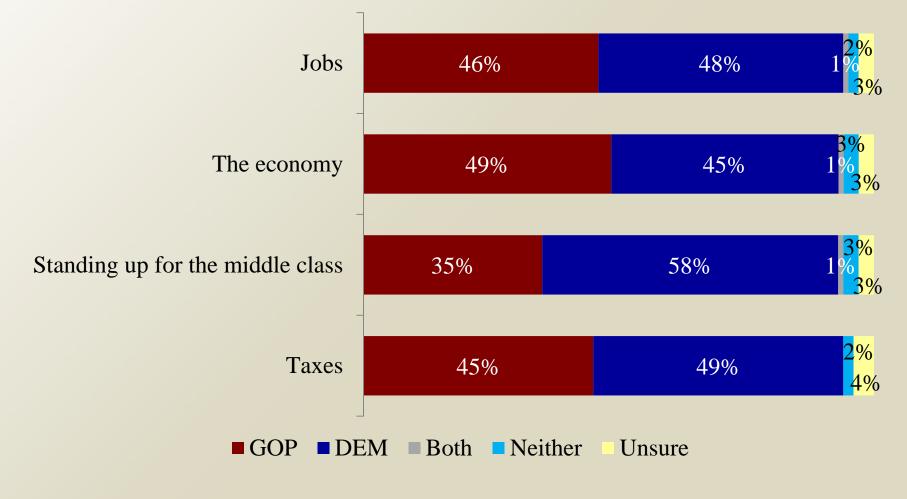|	Romney	Santorum	Gingrich	Paul	Unsure/Refused
Social issues	30%	43%	12%	7%	7%
Balancing the budget	41%	20%	20%	13%	7%

Q30-31

No matter who you think you might support, which of the candidates do you think has run the most negative campaign?
(Asked of Republicans only)

Candidate	Percent
Mitt Romney	40%
Rick Santorum	4%
Newt Gingrich	33%
Ron Paul	4%

Q32

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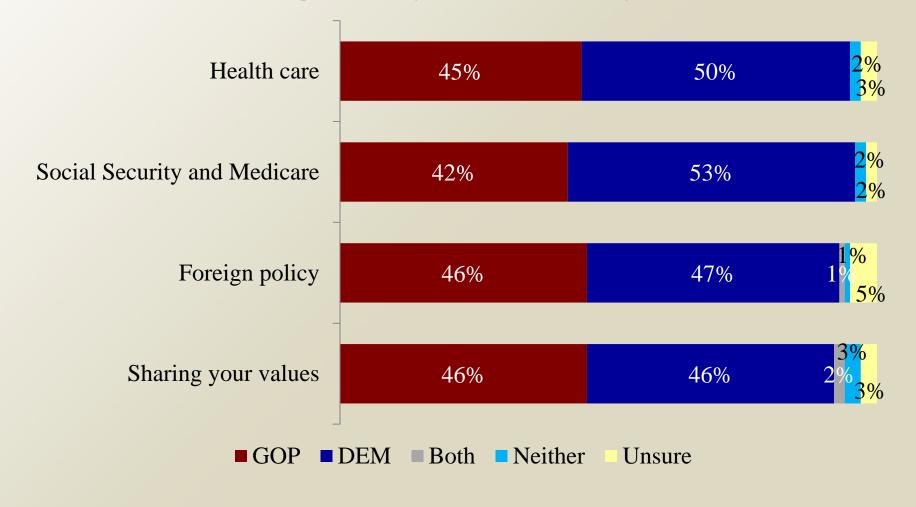Lake Research Partners • The Tarrance Group

Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who will better handle this issue, the Republican Party or the Democratic Party.

	GOP	DEM	Both	Neither	Unsure
Jobs	46%	48%		1%	2% / 3%
The economy	49%	45%		1%	3% / 3%
Standing up for the middle class	35%	58%		1%	3% / 3%
Taxes	45%	49%			2% / 4%

■ GOP ■ DEM ■ Both ■ Neither ■ Unsure

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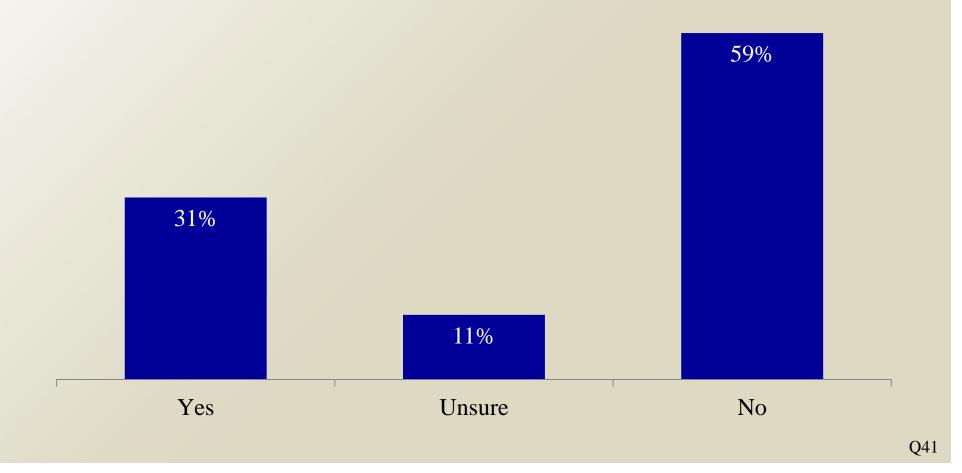
Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who will better handle this issue, the Republican Party or the Democratic Party.

Issue	GOP	DEM	Both	Neither	Unsure
Health care	45%	50%		2%	3%
Social Security and Medicare	42%	53%		2%	2%
Foreign policy	46%	47%	1%	1%	5%
Sharing your values	46%	46%	2%	3%	3%

■ GOP ■ DEM ■ Both ■ Neither ■ Unsure

Q37-40