

## POLL: AMERICANS HIT THE ROOF OVER DEBT CEILING DEBATE

The Washington Post -

Aug. 10, 2011: In the aftermath of the tumultuous debate over raising the debt ceiling, Americans give Washington a strong vote of no confidence, with barely a quarter saying the federal government can fix the nation's economic problems and a large majority agreeing that the policymaking process is unstable and ineffective.

A new Washington Post poll underscores the damage caused to President Barack Obama and both political parties by the long standoff over the debt ceiling and the weakened economy. The results could have significant implications for Republicans and Democrats, as record numbers of Americans now say they are interested in new congressional representation when they vote in November 2012.

A majority of Americans said they oppose the recent debt ceiling compromise, which calls for slicing about \$2 trillion from the deficit over the next decade. The highest and strongest opposition comes from Republicans, but a majority of independents also oppose the deal. Democrats are evenly divided.

Nearly three-quarters of Americans say they have little or no confidence in Washington to repair the economy. Confidence is down 21 percentage points from October 2010, and is less than half its 2002 levels. Roughly 4 in 10 say they have no confidence at all in the federal government when it comes to dealing with the economy.

The poll was conducted by telephone Tuesday among a random national sample of 601 adults, including users of conventional and cellular phones. The results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

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