



REASON-RUPE

Public Opinion Survey

JANUARY 2013 TOPLINE RESULTS

RELEASED: JANUARY 30, 2013

The Reason-Rupe January 2013 Poll interviewed 1000 adults on both mobile (500) and landline (500) phones, including 228 respondents without landlines from January 17 to 21, 2013. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8%. Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) conducted the survey. Interviews were done in English by Princeton Data Source LLC. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. When feasible, answer choices within questions were rotated. For more methodological information, please visit <http://reason.com/reason-rupe-poll-methodology>.

The poll questionnaire, crosstabs, and analysis can be found at reason.com/poll.

31	Which do you think is more important for technological innovation in our country	
	Private sector investment	66%
	Government investment	25%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%

32 In just a few words, what, if anything, should be the government's reaction to the school shooting that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut last month? (OPEN)
(Some respondents provided up to three answers, Percentages Sum to More than 100%, ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)

% of Respondents Who Mentioned...		
	Nothing/Federal Government Should Not Get Involved	21%
	Security at Schools	20%
	Stronger/More Gun Control	16%
	Better Mental Health Services	12%
	Ban Assault Weapons/Large Magazine Clips	9%
	More Background Checks	7%
	Respondent Agrees with President Obama's Plan	7%
	Enforce Existing Gun Laws	6%
	Respondent Wants Government to do Something	5%
	Let States Handle Gun Laws	2%
	Ban All Guns/Turn guns and ammunition into authorities	1%
	Other	13%
	Answer Given	91%
	Don't Know/Refused	9%
	Total	100%

33	Of the following factors that some say might have helped prevent the Newtown tragedy, which one do you consider MOST important?	
	Better mental health treatment	24%
	Stricter gun control laws	19%
	Better parenting	18%
	Having armed school officials or armed guards on site	17%
	Less violence in media and video games	10%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Something else	3%
	Haven't you followed this news story enough to say?	3%
	All of above	1%
	Combination of above	1%
	Total	100%

34	If the federal ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004 were still in effect, do you think it would have helped avoid the Newtown tragedy, or not?	
	Yes	27%
	No	67%
	Depends (VOL.)	1%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
35	If the federal ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004 were still in effect, how would it have helped avoid the Newtown tragedy? (OPEN) (ASKED IF Q34=1)	
	Would have made it more difficult for Lanza to obtain the weapons used	42%
	Would have prevented Lanza from obtaining weapons used	30%
	Weapons wouldn't have fired bullets so rapidly/reducing number of casualties	10%
	Other (i.e. no reason for civilian to own assault weapon)	18%
	Answer Given	93%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
36	Do you think people should be prohibited from owning assault weapons, or should people be allowed to own them?	
	Prohibited from owning assault weapons	44%
	Allowed to own assault weapons	51%
	Don't Know/Refused	5%
	Total	100%
37	In just a few words, how would you describe an assault weapon? (OPEN) (Some respondents provided up to three answers, Percentages Sum to More than 100%, ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)	
	% of Respondents Who Mentioned....	
	Automatic Weapon	29%
	Fires Rapidly	27%
	Large Magazines	23%
	Fires Multiple Rounds	17%
	Powerful/Dangerous Gun	15%
	Military Style Weapon	13%
	Any Weapon i.e. knife or gun	8%
	Semi-Automatic	7%
	Designed to kill many people	7%
	Not for Hunting or Traditional Protection	4%
	Other	6%

	Answer Given	93%
	Don't Know	7%
	Total	100%
38	Many elected officials have called for swift government action in response to the Newtown school shooting. Which comes closest to your view	
	Elected officials are exploiting the tragedy for political reasons	52%
	Elected officials are reacting responsibly	41%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
39	Do you or does any other member of your household own a handgun, rifle, shotgun, or any other kind of firearm? Is that you or another member of your household?	
	<i>NET Household Owns Firearm</i>	42%
	<i>NET Household Does Not Own Firearm</i>	54%
	Yes, self	17%
	Yes, other member of household	13%
	Yes, self and other member of household (VOL.)	12%
	No	54%
	Don't Know/Refused	4%
	Total	100%
40	Please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion...the less government the better; or, there are more things government should be doing	
	The less government the better	47%
	There are more things government should be doing	46%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%
41	Please tell me which comes closer to your own opinion...we need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems; or, people would be better able to handle today's problems within a free market with less govt involvement	
	We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems	45%
	People would be better able to handle today's problems within a free market with less govt involvement	49%
	Don't Know/Refused	7%
	Total	100%