

Peter Brown, Assistant Director,  
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute  
(203) 535-6203

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.

Public Relations

Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

## POLL

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### **OBAMA SHOULD FOCUS STATE OF THE UNION ON ECONOMY, U.S. VOTERS TELL QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL; PRESIDENT HANDLES ECONOMY BETTER THAN GOP, VOTERS SAY**

President Barack Obama should focus on the economy in his State of the Union Address, 35 percent of American voters say in a Quinnipiac University national poll released today. Another 20 percent say the federal deficit is the top priority, with 15 percent citing gun policy and 12 percent listing health care.

The U.S. economy is in a recession 53 percent of voters tell the independent Quinnipiac (KWUIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll. A total of 79 percent of voters describe the economy as “not so good” or “poor” and only 34 percent say it’s getting better, while 28 percent say it’s getting worse and 37 percent say it’s staying about the same.

By a 47 – 41 percent margin, American voters trust President Barack Obama more than Republicans in Congress to handle the economy. Trust measures on other issues are:

- 44 percent trust Obama to handle the deficit, compared to 42 percent for Republicans;
- 48 – 40 percent trust Obama more on health care;
- 45 percent trust Obama on gun policy while 43 percent trust Republicans;
- 46 – 41 percent trust Obama more on immigration;
- 55 – 31 percent trust Obama more on the environment;
- 51 – 37 percent trust Obama more on foreign policy.

“It’s not a majority, but 35 percent of American voters want President Barack Obama to focus on the economy in his State of the Union Address tomorrow night” said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“Voters trust President Obama more than Congressional Republicans on the economy and most other issues, but they are more closely divided on who would do a better job on the deficit and on gun-control. And by 48 – 39 percent, voters trust Republicans in Congress more than Obama to cut federal spending.”

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/February 11, 2013 – page 2**

Congress should prevent the \$1.2 trillion cuts in defense and domestic spending due to take effect March 1, 43 percent of voters say, while 22 percent say let the cuts happen. Another 32 percent have no opinion.

A total of 66 percent of American voters say they are “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to watch the State of the Union Address. That includes 46 percent of Republicans, 86 percent of Democrats and 64 percent of independent voters. Women say they are more likely to watch than men, 71 – 59 percent.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, selected to give the Republican response to the State of the Union address, has a 27 – 15 percent favorability rating among American voters, with 57 percent who don’t know enough about him to form an opinion.

“Let’s see if Florida Sen. Marco Rubio’s supporting actor role Tuesday night moves the needle on his favorability meter among voters,” Brown said.

From January 30 – February 4, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,772 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more data or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

16. President Obama's State of the Union address is scheduled to take place on Tuesday evening, February 12th. How likely is it you will watch the President's State of the Union address that night, very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Very likely	43%	21%	67%	39%	37%	48%	38%	65%	59%
Smwht likely	23	25	19	25	22	23	23	25	18
Not very likely	9	14	5	10	11	8	11	1	7
Not likely at all	24	39	8	26	29	21	27	10	16
DK/NA	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Very likely	45%	35%	37%	40%	33%	43%	29%	42%	39%
Smwht likely	24	23	23	20	24	23	24	22	17
Not very likely	12	10	12	10	12	10	13	10	11
Not likely at all	19	31	26	28	31	23	33	25	32
DK/NA	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Very likely	48%	41%	46%	40%	44%	34%	36%	47%	51%
Smwht likely	23	23	22	24	21	29	27	21	15
Not very likely	11	9	8	10	12	9	9	9	10
Not likely at all	18	27	23	26	23	27	26	23	23
DK/NA	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1

17. As President Obama prepares to deliver his State of the Union address, please tell me which one of the following issues you are most interested in hearing him address: the economy, the federal budget deficit, health care, gun policy, foreign policy, immigration, or the environment?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Economy	35%	32%	38%	35%	34%	36%	35%	43%	25%
Federal deficit	20	30	12	21	24	18	23	14	11
Health care	12	10	16	8	8	15	11	17	13
Gun policy	15	12	18	14	14	15	14	16	16
Foreign policy	5	4	4	8	6	4	5	2	9
Immigration	4	3	6	4	4	5	3	2	15
Environment	3	-	4	4	3	3	3	1	7
DK/NA	6	8	3	6	7	4	6	5	4

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Economy	39%	33%	36%	40%	33%	37%	35%	40%	33%
Federal deficit	24	22	25	22	25	20	22	23	27
Health care	9	12	13	10	8	14	14	9	9
Gun policy	10	16	12	15	14	14	12	15	13
Foreign policy	5	5	4	6	6	4	4	6	4
Immigration	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	6
Environment	4	2	2	1	4	2	2	1	3
DK/NA	4	6	6	4	7	4	9	3	5

Cont'd

17. (cont'd) As President Obama prepares to deliver his State of the Union address, please tell me which one of the following issues you are most interested in hearing him address: the economy, the federal budget deficit, health care, gun policy, foreign policy, immigration, or the environment?

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HSHOLD INC	AGE IN YRS.....					
	Yes	No		<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64
Economy	38%	33%	33%	36%	37%	28%	34%	36%	38%
Federal deficit	22	19	18	19	29	13	22	22	20
Health care	9	13	15	9	7	14	8	12	14
Gun policy	10	17	18	16	11	26	18	12	9
Foreign policy	6	5	4	6	5	7	6	5	4
Immigration	5	4	4	4	5	3	4	6	3
Environment	4	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	3
DK/NA	6	6	6	7	5	5	5	5	9

18. Who do you trust to do a better job handling - the economy, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Obama	47%	6%	89%	41%	41%	52%	38%	87%	64%
Reps in Congress	41	85	7	43	47	37	50	5	20
DK/NA	12	9	5	17	12	11	12	8	16

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Obama	47%	34%	33%	39%	34%	42%	20%	44%	34%
Reps in Congress	43	53	54	52	53	47	66	45	50
DK/NA	10	12	13	9	12	11	14	11	16

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HSHOLD INC	AGE IN YRS.....					
	Yes	No		<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64
Obama	50%	46%	52%	45%	40%	42%	47%	49%	49%
Reps in Congress	38	43	38	44	47	41	44	41	39
DK/NA	12	11	10	11	13	17	9	10	12

TREND: Who do you trust to do a better job handling the economy, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress? (\* Low also 41% Jul 2010, Jun 2011)

OBAMA.....

	High		Low				
	Feb 11 2013	Apr 20 2012	Feb 23 2012	Nov 22 2011	Nov 02 2011	Nov 02 2011	Oct 06 2011*
Obama	47	43	46	44	48	48	41
Reps in Congress	41	43	41	41	39	39	43
DK/NA	12	15	13	15	12	12	16

19. Who do you trust to do a better job handling - the federal budget deficit, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Obama	44%	6%	84%	36%	38%	49%	35%	86%	63%
Reps in Congress	42	84	9	43	47	37	51	4	21
DK/NA	15	10	8	22	15	15	15	10	16

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Obama	43%	31%	29%	36%	31%	38%	17%	39%	35%
Reps in Congress	45	54	55	52	54	47	66	47	48
DK/NA	13	16	16	12	14	15	17	14	17

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Obama	46%	42%	49%	42%	36%	40%	43%	46%	43%
Reps in Congress	39	43	36	43	50	36	43	41	44
DK/NA	15	15	14	15	14	24	13	13	13

TREND: Who do you trust to do a better job handling the federal budget deficit, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress? (\*the budget deficit)

BIN LADEN DEATH

	Post		Jun 09 2011	Pre		Mar 3 2011*
	Feb 11 2013	Feb 23 2012		May 05 2011*	May 05 2011*	
Obama	44	44	39	42	42	43
Reps in Congress	42	46	46	44	46	46
DK/NA	15	10	15	14	11	11

20. Who do you trust to do a better job handling - health care, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Obama	48%	6%	89%	42%	42%	53%	39%	90%	65%
Reps in Congress	40	85	6	39	46	35	48	3	21
DK/NA	12	9	4	19	12	13	13	7	14

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Obama	51%	33%	33%	41%	36%	42%	19%	45%	36%
Reps in Congress	39	53	55	46	52	45	67	42	50
DK/NA	10	14	13	13	12	13	13	13	14

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Obama	54%	45%	52%	46%	43%	46%	48%	49%	48%
Reps in Congress	35	42	36	43	46	41	41	39	40
DK/NA	11	13	12	11	11	13	12	13	12

TREND: Who do you trust to do a better job handling health care, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress? (\*Low also 42% Jan 2010 & Mar 2010)

	Feb 11 2013	Mar 03 2011	Nov 17 2010	Apr 21 2010	BETTER PRES...	
					High Jul 1 2009	Low Apr 21 2010*
President Obama	48	46	44	42	53	42
Reps in Congress	40	43	45	39	33	39
DK/NA	12	12	10	19	14	19

23. Who do you trust to do a better job handling - the environment, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Obama	55%	21%	87%	52%	52%	58%	49%	82%	73%
Reps in Congress	31	64	6	30	34	28	36	10	15
DK/NA	14	15	6	19	14	14	15	8	12

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Obama	60%	43%	42%	49%	46%	51%	29%	53%	45%
Reps in Congress	27	41	41	35	39	34	54	32	37
DK/NA	13	16	16	16	16	14	18	15	18

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Obama	63%	52%	55%	54%	60%	55%	60%	56%	49%
Reps in Congress	24	34	31	33	28	31	29	31	32
DK/NA	13	14	14	13	12	14	11	13	19

24. Who do you trust to do a better job handling - foreign policy, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Obama	51%	8%	90%	47%	46%	55%	43%	84%	68%
Reps in Congress	37	79	6	34	42	32	44	7	22
DK/NA	12	13	3	18	12	12	13	9	10

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Obama	53%	39%	39%	43%	40%	47%	27%	49%	42%
Reps in Congress	36	47	48	46	47	40	58	40	45
DK/NA	10	14	13	10	13	13	15	12	13

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Obama	57%	48%	56%	47%	50%	48%	52%	52%	52%
Reps in Congress	33	38	31	43	42	36	39	37	33
DK/NA	10	13	14	10	8	16	9	11	14

25. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Excellent	1%	1%	2%	-	1%	1%	1%	4%	-
Good	19	3	34	18	19	20	16	31	27
Not so good	41	32	47	43	41	40	38	49	47
Poor	38	64	16	38	39	38	44	15	26
DK/NA	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Excellent	-	1%	1%	-	1%	-	1%	-	1%
Good	22	14	15	16	17	16	8	19	17
Not so good	43	36	35	39	39	38	31	39	34
Poor	35	49	49	44	43	45	58	41	47
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Excellent	-	1%	1%	1%	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Good	23	18	20	18	21	22	16	20	20
Not so good	45	39	40	40	42	45	45	39	35
Poor	32	42	38	41	36	33	37	40	42
DK/NA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

TREND: Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

EXLNT+GOOD....

	High		Low		High		Low	
	Feb 11 2013	Jul 12 2012	Feb 23 2012	Oct 06 2011	Sep 01 2011	Dec 10 2003	Mar 04 2009	Mar 04 2009
Excellent	1	1	1	-	-	3	-	-
Good	19	13	13	6	4	37	3	3
Not so good	41	45	43	38	35	42	28	28
Poor	38	41	43	55	61	16	68	68
DK/NA	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-

26. Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Better	34%	10%	57%	33%	34%	35%	32%	49%	35%
Worse	28	52	7	29	32	25	33	7	17
The same	37	37	35	38	34	40	35	43	45
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	3

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Better	44%	26%	28%	31%	33%	31%	20%	35%	31%
Worse	24	37	37	35	35	31	49	29	35
The same	32	36	34	33	32	37	31	36	33
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Better	46%	29%	33%	32%	38%	29%	30%	37%	37%
Worse	21	31	26	30	28	28	28	27	29
The same	33	39	40	37	34	42	41	35	33
DK/NA	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2

TREND: Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same? (\* Low also 11% Sep 2011)

BETTER.....

	Feb 11 2013	Feb 23 2012	Oct 06 2011	Sep 01 2011	Jul 14 2011	High Low	
						Jan 18 2011	Oct 06 2011*
Better	34	35	11	11	23	36	11
Worse	28	26	44	49	32	20	44
The same	37	38	44	39	43	43	44
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	2	2	1

27. Do you think the United States economy is in a recession now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes	53%	74%	35%	53%	52%	54%	56%	35%	55%
No	42	21	60	42	43	41	39	58	43
DK/NA	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	6	2

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Yes	48%	60%	59%	61%	53%	59%	67%	55%	59%
No	48	35	36	37	42	36	27	41	36
DK/NA	3	5	5	2	4	5	6	3	5

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Yes	46%	57%	53%	56%	51%	58%	57%	53%	47%
No	51	38	40	42	48	37	40	42	46
DK/NA	3	5	7	2	1	5	3	5	6



TREND: Do you think the United States economy is in a recession now?

	Feb 11 2013	Apr 20 2012	Feb 23 2012	Oct 06 2011	Sep 01 2011	YES RECESSION	
						High Jun 22 2010	Low Feb 11 2013
Yes	53	68	66	77	76	79	53
No	42	27	30	20	20	18	42
DK/NA	5	5	4	3	4	3	5

28. Do you think the economy is beginning to recover or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes	53%	23%	81%	52%	51%	54%	48%	80%	63%
No	44	75	16	45	47	42	50	16	35
DK/NA	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry Hshld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Yes	58%	43%	43%	47%	47%	49%	33%	51%	46%
No	40	55	54	51	51	49	63	48	52
DK/NA	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	2

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Yes	61%	49%	54%	49%	54%	53%	47%	54%	58%
No	37	48	44	48	44	45	50	44	38
DK/NA	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	4

TREND: Do you think the economy is beginning to recover or not? (\*High also Jan 2011)

	Feb 11 2013	Apr 20 2012	Feb 23 2012	Sep 01 2011	Jul 14 2011	YES RECOVER	
						High Feb 23 2012*	Low Sep 01 2011
Yes	53	53	54	28	45	54	28
No	44	43	43	68	52	43	68
DK/NA	3	4	3	4	3	3	4

29. As you may know, unless Congress acts, about \$1.2 trillion in defense and domestic spending would be cut from the federal budget on March 1st. Do you want these cuts to take effect or not, or don't you have an opinion on that?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Cut spending	22%	23%	17%	26%	28%	17%	23%	11%	20%
No/Don't cut	43	46	43	44	41	46	45	44	41
No opinion	32	28	37	28	28	35	30	43	37
REFUSED	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Yes/Cut spending	25%	22%	21%	22%	30%	17%	23%	21%	27%
No/Don't cut	51	41	48	45	41	48	46	46	50
No opinion	21	34	30	30	26	33	30	30	20
REFUSED	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	3	3

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Yes/Cut spending	25%	21%	16%	25%	33%	21%	21%	25%	21%
No/Don't cut	50	41	42	47	46	35	44	47	43
No opinion	22	36	39	27	19	42	32	25	34
REFUSED	3	2	3	1	3	2	3	3	2

30. Who do you trust to do a better job cutting federal spending, President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Obama	39%	4%	74%	32%	32%	46%	32%	78%	53%
Reps in Congress	48	88	17	50	56	41	56	13	34
DK/NA	12	8	8	18	12	13	12	8	12

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv		Mltry HsHld
	Yes	No					Yes	No	
Obama	38%	29%	28%	32%	27%	37%	18%	37%	28%
Reps in Congress	52	57	61	59	60	51	70	52	57
DK/NA	10	13	12	9	12	12	11	11	15

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HSHOLD INC AGE IN YRS.....

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS.....			
	Yes	No				18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Obama	40%	39%	46%	36%	29%	39%	38%	41%	39%
Reps in Congress	48	48	42	51	59	45	50	47	50
DK/NA	12	13	12	12	12	16	12	12	11