

Republicans in Congress More Favorable With 55+ Independent Voters than Democrats

Resurgent Republic Survey Shows Independents continue drift toward GOP on economy, health care, debt and national security

Washington, D.C. (December 15, 2009) – Voters 55 and older are now extremely concerned about the federal government's current level of spending and debt. A new survey just released by Resurgent Republic, a non-profit conservative organization that gauges public opinion toward government policy proposals, found that among voters 55 and older, the three most important problems facing the country are the economy, health care, and government spending.

“Since Resurgent Republic's first survey in April, we have been noting the extent to which budgetary and fiscal issues have been driving Independents away from Democrats and toward Republicans,” said Ed Gillespie, Co-Founder of Resurgent Republic. “That is clearly the case with voters 55 and older, a cohort where Independents look far more like Republicans than Democrats on budgetary and fiscal issues.”

Twenty-seven percent of these voters say the economy concerns them most, 18 percent say health care, and 10 percent say government spending and the deficit. Republicans and Independents indicate higher levels of concern about government spending and the deficit (20 and 12 percent respectively) than do Democrats (3 percent).

Independent voters age 55 and older trust Republicans 35 to 19 percent on the issue they are most concerned about (39 to 19 among Independents who say they are absolutely certain to vote), and these Independents give Republicans in Congress a favorable/unfavorable rating of 44/41 percent versus 36/52 percent for Democrats.

Older voters say Republicans are better able than Democrats to handle the problem they are most concerned about by a narrow margin. Overall, voters 55 and older say Republicans are better able to handle the issue they are most concerned about by 34 to 31 percent.

“Resurgent Republic focused on older voters because turnout among this group historically surpasses that of younger voters in non-presidential election years like 2010, and they are the voters most interested in the health-care debate dominating Congress at the moment,” said Whit Ayres, Co-Founder of Resurgent Republic. “The party balance among voters 55 and older stands remarkably close to that of registered voters overall,”

Democratic identifiers enjoy a seven-point advantage over Republicans in this sample, at 32 to 25 percent. The Pollster.com average of recent surveys shows a Democratic advantage among all registered and likely voters of five points. President Obama's favorable rating is 53 percent among these voters, almost identical to his 54 percent favorable rating nationally in the Pollster.com average. But the Democratic party ID advantage and President Obama's majority favorable rating does not translate into support for Democratic policies among voters 55 and older.

Resurgent Republic conducted its latest survey Sunday through Wednesday, December 6-9, 2009 with 1000 registered voters 55 and older. The margin of error for the full sample is 3.1 percent. To read the survey memo and complete findings, please visit www.resurgentrepublic.com.

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