USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

REPUBLICAN NOMINATION CAMPAIGN AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 13-14, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of –1,414—Republicans and political independents, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of Republicans and independents, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is ±4 percentage points.

For results based on the total sample of – 591-- Republicans, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is ±5 percentage points.

For results based on the total sample of – 823-- independents, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is ±4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample of 1,000 national adults includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents by region. Landline numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers, cell phone numbers are selected using random-digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, phone status (cell phone only/landline only/both, having an unlisted landline number, and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households.   All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

Question(s) were asked of a random half-sample on two nights' of the Gallup Daily tracking survey.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

1. Next, how closely are you following the campaign for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination– very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not at all?

2011 Sep 13-14	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too closely	Not at all	No opinion
Republicans and independents	21	33	25	21	1
Republicans	27	37	27	9	--
Independents	19	30	25	26	1

2. Thinking now about Social Security, which comes closer to your view – [ROTATED: Social Security needs changes but the most important thing is to protect the program, (or) Social Security is unsustainable for younger workers and should be fundamentally overhauled]?

2011 Sep 13-14	Needs changes but protect the program	Unsustainable and needs to be overhauled	No opinion
Republicans and independents	54	37	9
Republicans	55	41	4
Independents	53	36	11

3. Based on what you have heard or read about Texas governor Rick Perry's statements about Social Security, including calling it a Ponzi scheme, are you—[ROTATED: more likely to support him for president, does it make no difference to you, are you less likely to support him for president], or don't you know enough to say?

2011 Sep 13-14	More likely to support	Makes no difference	Less likely to support	Don't know enough to say	No answer
Republicans and independents	14	22	27	33	5
Republicans	19	24	19	36	2
Independents	12	21	32	30	6

4. Regardless of what you think about Rick Perry's views on Social Security, do you think his views on the issue will--[help his chances of being elected president, will make no difference, or will they Hurt his chances of being elected president]—if he is the Republican nominee?

2011 Sep 13-14	Help his chances	Make no difference	Hurt his chances	No opinion
Republicans and independents	13	31	38	19
Republicans	17	36	37	11
Independents	11	28	40	22