

**WBUR Massachusetts Statewide Poll**  
 Topline Results  
 Survey of 500 Massachusetts Residents  
 Field Dates: November 28-November 30, 2011

I'm going to read you the names of several people and groups who are active in public affairs. After I read each one please tell me if you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of the person or group. If you have never heard of the person or group, or if you are undecided, please just say so. **READ FIRST NAME.** How about **READ NEXT NAME?**

**REPEAT QUESTION TEXT ONLY IF NECESSARY, PROBE IF RESPONDENT SAYS "DON'T KNOW".** Have you heard of **READ NAME** and are undecided about (him/her/it)? Or **PAUSE** have you never heard of (him/her)?

<b>RANDOMIZE ORDER</b>	Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of / Undecided	Never heard of	Refused
Barack Obama	56%	32%	11%	0%	0%
The United States Congress	23%	57%	17%	3%	0%

*Question, candidate order rotated for next two questions*

Thinking now about candidates for U.S. Senate, who do you think would do a better job addressing our nation's economic issues —Democrat Elizabeth Warren or Republican Scott Brown?

Elizabeth Warren	41%
Scott Brown	36%
Neither (do not read)	5%
Both (do not read)	1%
Don't Know / Refused	17%

Thinking now about candidates for President, who do you think would do a better job addressing our nation's economic issues—Democrat Barack Obama or Republican Mitt Romney [**RAH-nee**]?

Barack Obama	49%
Mitt Romney	33%
Neither (do not read)	8%
Both (do not read)	1%
Don't Know / Refused	8%

How familiar are you with the group within the U.S. Congress called the Super Committee, the group that was supposed to put forward a proposal to reduce our nation's deficit, but did not do so. Very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar?

Very familiar	17%
Somewhat familiar	31%
Not too familiar	23%
Not at all familiar	28%
Don't Know / Refused	0%

As you may have heard, the Super Committee did not accomplish their objective of producing a plan to reduce the nation's deficit. Between Democrats and Republicans in Congress, Who would you say is more responsible for the committee not producing a plan?

Democrats	22%
Republicans	35%
Neither (do not read)	4%
Both (do not read)	22%
Don't Know / Refused	16%

Thinking about different approaches to reducing the federal budget deficit, I'd like to know how big a role you think each of the following should play in reducing our nation's deficit. First/Next, should **READ FIRST/NEXT ITEM** play a major role, minor role, or no role at all in reducing the federal budget deficit?

<b>RANDOMIZE ORDER</b>	Major role	Minor Role	No role at all	Don't Know / Refused
Closing tax loopholes for wealthy Americans	68%	20%	9%	2%
Closing tax loopholes for large businesses	68%	21%	6%	5%
Increasing tax rates for wealthy Americans	62%	24%	11%	2%
Increasing taxes for all Americans	27%	38%	33%	2%
Reducing spending on government programs and services	43%	40%	12%	5%
Reducing benefits paid through Social Security	20%	31%	45%	3%
Reducing benefits paid through Medicare	23%	34%	39%	3%
Reducing spending on the U.S. Military	45%	36%	17%	2%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Race / Ethnicity

White / Caucasian	78%
All others	19%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

### Age

18 to 29	21%
30 to 44	27%
45 to 59	28%
60+	24%

### Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

### Education

High School or less	39%
Some college, no degree	26%
College graduate (BA/BS)	21%
Advanced degree	14%
Don't know / Refused	1%

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**About the Poll:** These results are based on a survey of 500 Massachusetts residents conducted November 28-30, 2011. Live telephone interviews were conducted via both landline and cell phone using conventional random digit dialing (RDD) sampling methods. Statistical results are weighted for telephone usage and to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.4 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence. The results of some questions have been previously released. The poll was sponsored by WBUR, a National Public Radio station in the Boston area.