

## **Table Introductions**

### Introductions

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### Ground Rules

- ❖ Participate actively
- ❖ Listen respectfully
- ❖ Explore differences/search for common ground
- ❖ Share air time
- ❖ Stay focused (e.g., one conversation at a time, no cell phones)
- ❖ Discussions start and end on time

### Additional Ground Rules

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## **Demographic Polling**

***(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)***

### **What is your gender?**

- Female
- Male

### **How old are you?**

- 17-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 and better

### **What is your annual household income?**

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 or greater
- Prefer not to say

### **What is your race/ethnicity?**

- African American/Black
- Asian/Asian-American
- Caucasian/White
- Latino/Hispanic
- Native American
- More than one race
- Other

**When it comes to issues of our budget and our economy how would you describe your perspective on a scale from 1 to 5?**

- 1 - Liberal
- 2
- 3 - Moderate
- 4
- 5 - Conservative

**How satisfied are you about the tone and quality of political discussions in our country today?**

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied



## Economic Recovery

Economic Recovery

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## Economic Recovery Polling

*(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)*

So far this year, do you think economic conditions are getting better, getting worse, or about the same?

- Getting better
- Getting worse
- About the same

Right now in Washington, Congress has been debating whether to extend unemployment benefits and whether to spend more money to preserve jobs through aid to state and local governments. ***How supportive or unsupportive are you of Congress spending more on programs like this if that spending increases the budget deficit?***

- Very supportive
- Supportive
- Neither supportive or unsupportive
- Unsupportive
- Very unsupportive

Do you think the government should be doing more or less to strengthen the economy?

- More
- Less
- About the same
- Not sure



## **Core Values Polling**

***(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)***

**On a scale of 1-7, what are the core values that should guide decisions about our country's fiscal future?**

- 1 – Taking care of current generations
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7- Taking care of future generations

**On a scale of 1-7, what are the core values that should guide decisions about our country's fiscal future?**

- 1 – Share the burden of reducing the deficit equally
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7- Place a greater burden for reducing the deficit on those more capable

**On a scale of 1-7, what are the core values that should guide decisions about our country's fiscal future?**

- 1 – The government is responsible to take care of our most vulnerable people
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7- Individual responsibility to take care of one's self

#	OPTIONS	PAGE	SAVINGS (billions)	YOUR VOTE	GROUP VOTE
<b>Health Care: Medicare and Medicaid</b> <i>(In final vote, cannot choose more than one)</i>					
1	Reduce spending by 5%	11	\$100		
2	Reduce spending by 10%	11	\$201		
3	Reduce spending by 15%	11	\$301		
4	Make no changes	11	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>Social Security</b> <i>(In final vote, cannot choose more than one among 8 and 9)</i>					
5	Raise age for receiving full benefits to 69 years of age	14	\$4		
6	Limit increases in starting benefits for all but the lowest wage earners	16	\$3		
7	Change the formula for raising benefits each year to reflect a lower rate of inflation	17	\$48		
8	Raise the 12.4% payroll tax gradually to 13.4% by 2025	18	\$10		
9	Raise the 12.4% payroll tax gradually to 14.4% by 2025	18	\$21		
10	Raise the limit on taxable earnings so it covers 90% of total earnings in America	19	\$67		
11	Create personal savings accounts within the system	20	-\$61		
12	Make no changes	20	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>All Other Non-Defense</b> <i>(In final vote, cannot choose more than one)</i>					
13	Reduce overall spending in this category by 5%	25	\$68		
14	Reduce overall spending in this category by 10%	25	\$136		
15	Reduce overall spending in this category by 15%	26	\$204		
16	Make no changes	26	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>Defense</b> <i>(In final vote, cannot choose more than one)</i>					
17	Reduce overall spending in this category by 5%	29	\$44		
18	Reduce overall spending in this category by 10%	29	\$88		
19	Reduce overall spending in this category by 15%	30	\$132		
20	Make no changes	30	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>Raising Existing Taxes</b> <i>(In final vote, cannot choose more than one among 21, 22, 23, 24)</i>					
21	Raise personal income taxes by 10% for everyone	34	\$184		
22	Raise personal income tax rates by 20% for everyone	34	\$381		
23	Raise personal tax rates by 10% for everyone in the top two tax brackets	34	\$80		
24	Raise personal tax rates by 20% for everyone in the top two tax brackets	35	\$174		
25	Create an extra 5% tax for people earning more than \$1 million a year	36	\$34		
26	Raise the tax rate on capital gains and dividends	36	\$20		
27	Raise the top corporate income tax rate to 40%, from 35%	37	\$68		
28	Make no changes	37	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>Reduce Deductions and Credits</b>					
29	Limit the value of itemized deductions to 28%	38	\$49		
30	Convert the mortgage interest deduction into a credit	39	\$106		
31	Limit the deduction for state and local taxes, real estate, and personal property	40	\$96		
32	Limit corporate depreciation for equipment	40	\$100		
33	End the business deduction for domestic production	41	\$98		
34	Make no changes	41	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>Reform the Tax Code</b> <i>(In final vote, cannot choose more than one)</i>					
35	Use 90 percent to lower tax rates and 10% to reduce deficit	44	\$214		
36	Use 80 percent to lower tax rates and 20% to reduce deficit	44	\$428		
37	Use 70 percent to lower tax rates and 30% to reduce deficit	45	\$642		
38	Make no changes	45	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					
<b>Create New Taxes</b>					
39	Create a 5% Value Added Tax	47	\$399		
40	Create a carbon tax	48	\$186		
41	Create a securities transactions tax	48	\$30		
42	Make no changes	49	\$0		
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>					





## Reaching the 1.2 trillion Target Polling

*(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)*

**How much progress has your table made towards reaching the target of reducing the deficit by 1.2 trillion in 2025?**

- 1. Exceeded the \$1.2 target
- 2. Hit the target
- 3. \$1 trillion - \$1.2 trillion
- 4. \$800 billion - \$1 trillion
- 5. \$600 billion - \$800 billion
- 6. \$400 billion - \$600 billion
- 7. Less than \$400 billion

## **Tough Choices – Part 2**

### Progress Towards Target

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### Relationship to Values

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### Next Steps

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## Tough Choices Part 3 – Final Choices

(Enter the final choices for the table into the computer)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_



## Polling on Individual Options

*(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)*

To what extent did you find your choices and views about the options influenced by people at the table?

- 1. A great deal
- 2. Somewhat
- 3. Not very much
- 4. Not at all

For the voting on the individual options determine your level of agreement:

- 1. I agree with and support this option.
- 2. I am willing to support this option as part of a deficit reduction package but I have reservations about it.
- 3. I disagree with this option and would not support it.
- 4. I am not sure.

Option #	Agree and Support	Support as Package	Don't Support	Not Sure	Option #	Agree and Support	Support as Package	Don't Support	Not Sure
1.					21.				
2.					22.				
3.					23.				
4.					24.				
5.					25.				
6.					26.				
7.					27.				
8.					28.				
9.					29.				
10.					30.				
11.					31.				
12.					32.				
13.					33.				
14.					34.				
15.					35.				
16.					36.				
17.					37.				
18.					38.				
19.					39.				
20.					40.				
					41.				
					42.				

**Messages to Leaders in Washington**

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**Polling on Messages**

**Write Down Your Top Three Messages**

**and Corresponding Number from Theme Team Report**

***(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)***

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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## **Individual Commitment and Group Actions**

### **Individual Commitment:**

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### **Group Actions:**

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### **Commitment:**

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## Polling on Deficit Reduction Packages

*(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)*

For the voting on the packages determine your level of support:

- Very Supportive
- Supportive
- Neither supportive or non-supportive
- Unsupportive
- Very Unsupportive

Package # Elements	Very Supportive	Supportive	Neither	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive
1. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					
2. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					
3. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					
4. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					
5. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					



## Evaluation Polling

*(Turn In Worksheet to Facilitator for Recording Results)*

**To what extent did you learn something today about the federal budget or economy?**

- I learned a great deal
- I learned a few things
- I learned very little
- I didn't learn anything at all

**Would you like to see leaders convene the public in this kind of forum on other issues?**

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

**How likely is it that you will contact the media, elected representatives, or other community leaders to tell them about your views on these issues?**

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat Likely
- Not likely at all

**Based on your experiences in the discussions today, how optimistic are you about the quality of civil dialogue?**

- Very optimistic
- Optimistic
- Neither optimistic or pessimistic
- Pessimistic
- Very pessimistic

**Other Comments:**

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