



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL  
For Release: Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
3:00 pm (EDT)

**CONCERNS ABOUT THE BUDGET DEFICIT**

July 24-28, 2009

Americans have historically been concerned about budget deficits, and they continue to be in a CBS News/New York Times Poll out today. More are in favor - in general - of reducing the budget deficit than spending more money to stimulate the economy. When asked to choose between the two, 58% think the federal government should focus on reducing the deficit, while only 35% think it should spend more to stimulate the economy.

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD...**

	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009
Spend to stimulate economy	35%	33%	41%
Focus on deficit reduction	58	61	52

There are partisan differences on this matter. Republicans (79%) and independents (59%) support focusing on deficit reduction, while nearly half of Democrats (48%) favor spending more to stimulate the economy.

But while they support the principle of reducing the budget deficit, many are not willing to have the government provide fewer services in areas such as health care, education, and defense spending to do that, nor are they willing to pay more in taxes to meet that goal.

**TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO...?**

	Yes	No
Have fewer services	31%	53
Pay more in taxes	41%	56

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1050 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone July 24-28, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**Concerns about the Deficit**  
**July 24-28, 2009**

q30 Which comes closer to your own view? The federal government should spend money to stimulate the national economy, even if it means increasing the budget deficit, OR The federal government should NOT spend money to stimulate the national economy and should instead focus on reducing the budget deficit.

**\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\***

**\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Stimulate the economy	35	19	48	33	33
Reduce budget deficit	58	79	43	59	61
DK/NA	7	2	9	8	6

q31 In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing for the government to provide fewer services, in areas such as health care, education and defense spending?

Willing	31	37	24	34
Not willing	53	45	62	50
Some, but not others (Vol.)	11	14	9	12
DK/NA	5	4	5	4

q32 In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes?

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Willing	41	27	48	43	34
Not willing	56	69	48	56	61
DK/NA	3	4	4	1	5

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1050	
Total Republicans	248	208 (20%)
Total Democrats	335	355 (34%)
Total Independents	467	487 (46%)