



THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT: WHO THEY ARE

April 5-12, 2010

18% of Americans say they are supporters of the Tea Party, but many have yet to become fully involved in the movement. Most have not donated money to the group, nor attended a rally. Supporters' connection to the Tea Party is mainly from television and web sites; most get their television news from Fox News. Politically, most Tea Partiers say they're more interested in shaping policy than electing candidates. More than half identify as Republicans.

Supporters say that the main goal of the Tea Party movement is to reduce the role of the federal government (45%), far outdistancing other goals such as creating jobs (9%), cutting the budget (6%) or lowering taxes (6%). Only 7% of Tea Partiers say the movement's goal is to elect their own candidates.

MAIN GOAL OF TEA PARTY MOVEMENT?

(Among Tea Party supporters)

Table with 2 columns: Goal and Percentage. Rows include: Reduce role of federal gov't (45%), Creating jobs (9%), Electing own candidates (7%), Cutting budget (6%), Lowering taxes (6%).

78% of supporters have never donated money to the Tea Party or attended a rally; just one in five have done so. A third has visited Tea Party web sites, but most have not.

63% of Tea Party identifiers say they get most of their political and current events news on television from Fox News Channel, compared to just 23% of Americans who say they watch Fox for politics.

TEA PARTY ACTIVITIES

(Among Tea Party supporters)

Table with 2 columns: Activity and Percentage. Rows include: Have you...? (Donated money: 2%, Attend rally or meeting: 13%, Both: 5%, Neither: 78%), Visited Tea Party web sites (Yes: 31%, No: 68%), Source of TV political news (Fox News Channel: 63%, Other: 20%).

For many self-identified supporters, their information about the Tea Party comes mainly from TV and web sites. Nearly half of Tea Party supporters say they get their information about the movement through television.

**MAIN SOURCE OF TEA PARTY INFO?**

(Among Tea Party supporters)

TV	47%
Internet	24
Newspapers	8
Email	4
Meetings	1
Phone calls	1
Other	11

**WHO ARE THE TEA PARTY SUPPORTERS?**

Few Americans think the views of the Tea Party movement reflect those of most in the country - just a quarter do. But 84% of Tea Party supporters say their views are in line with most Americans.

**VIEWS OF TEA PARTY MOVEMENT REFLECT VIEWS OF MOST AMERICANS?**

	Tea Party	All
Yes	84%	25%
No	8	36
Not sure	5	37

There are more men than women in the Tea Party, and 37% are college graduates, compared to 25% of Americans overall.

Half of Tea Partiers call themselves "middle class," a higher percentage than Americans nationwide; they also have higher household incomes. They come from all regions of the country, but are most likely to be from the South, and least likely to live in the Northeast.

89% are white; just 1% is African American. Tea Party supporters are older than the general public - three in four are over age 45, including 29% who are seniors.

In terms of politics, more than half (54%) identify themselves as Republicans, and four in 10 are independents. Only 5% of Tea Partiers are Democrats, compared to 31% of adults nationwide. 97% are registered to vote.

73% of Tea Party members are conservative, including 39% who are very conservative.

Tea Partiers are more likely than Americans overall to attend religious services each week (38%) and to identify themselves as evangelical (39%). Most supporters of the Tea Party are Protestants just like the country as a whole.

## WHO ARE THE TEA PARTY SUPPORTERS?

(Among Tea Party supporters)

Men	59%
Women	41
Age <45	23%
Age 45 +	75
Age 65 +	29%
White	89%
Black	1
Asian	1
Other	6
Northeast	18%
Midwest	22
South	36
West	25
Education	
H.S. or less	29%
Some college	33
College grad	37
<\$50K	35%
\$50K+	56
Over \$100K	20%
Republican	54%
Democrat	5
Independent	41
Liberal	4%
Moderate	20
Conservative	73
Evangelical	39%
Protestant	61%
Catholic	22
Other	6
None	7
Attend religious services weekly	38%
Gun in household	58%

### TEA PARTY "ACTIVISTS"

Tea Party "activists," defined as those who have attended a rally or donated money to the movement, are even more pessimistic about the direction of the country, and more negative about President Obama, than

Tea Partiers overall. These activists make up 20% of Tea Party supporters and 4% of Americans overall.

72% of Tea Party activists are angry about the way things are going in Washington, compared to 53% of Tea Party supporters.

This group has an especially gloomy outlook on the economy; 62% of them say it is getting worse, and more than six in 10 say when it comes to the availability of good jobs for American workers, America's best years are behind us.

More than half of Tea Party activists (55%) say the amount of income tax they have to pay this year is unfair. Among Tea Partiers as whole, 42% feel that way.

Unlike Tea Partiers overall, these activists hold a net negative view of the Republican Party. Fewer than half - 44% - view the party favorably, while 50% have an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party.

But the most active Tea Partiers hold especially favorable views of Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin, and 50% think Sarah Palin has the ability to be an effective president. Among Tea Partiers in general, just 40% think she has that ability.

24% of Tea Partiers think violent action against the government could be justified, but that number rises to 32% among Tea Party activists.

More than three in four Tea Party activists get their television political news from Fox News Channel.

#### ALL TEA PARTIERS VS. TEA PARTY ACTIVISTS

	Tea Party	
	All	Activists
Angry about Washington	53%	72%
Disapprove of job Pres. Obama is doing	88%	96%
Economy is getting worse	42%	62%
Best days for good jobs in U.S. are behind us	58%	64%
Income tax you pay is unfair	42%	55%
Favorable opinion of Republican Party	54%	44%
Favorable view of Glenn Beck	59%	77%
Favorable view of Sarah Palin	66%	75%
Palin has ability to be effective President	40%	50%
Violent action against gov't is justified	24%	32%
Get TV political news from Fox News	63%	77%

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,580 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 5-12, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines 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.

An oversample of people who describe themselves as supporters of the Tea Party movement were interviewed, for a total of 881 interviews. The results were then weighted in proportion to the adult population. The margin of error for the sample of Tea Party supporters is three points. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**The Tea Party Movement: Who are They**  
**April 5-12, 2010**

q80 Regardless of your overall opinion, do you think the views of the people involved in the Tea Party movement generally reflect the views of most Americans, or not?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **		
	Total	Tea Party Supporters	Jan10b
	%	%	%
Reflect most Americans	25	84	46
Do not reflect most Americans	36	8	40
Both/Some (vol.)	2	3	4
DK/NA	37	5	10

q82 Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

			Mar10c1
Yes	18	100	20
No	62	0	56
DK/NA	20	0	24

q83 Is the Tea Party movement politically active in your community?

Yes	21	50
No	51	40
DK/NA	28	10

q84 Have you supported the Tea Party movement either by donating money or attending a rally or meeting, have you done both, or have you done neither?

	** AMONG TEA PARTY SUPPORTERS **	
	%	
Donated money	2	
Attended rally or meeting	13	
Both	5	
Neither	78	
DK/NA	2	

q85 Have you visited Web sites associated with the Tea Party movement, or haven't you?

Have	31
Have not	68
DK/NA	1

q86 Where do you get most of your information about the Tea Party movement -- 1. the internet, 2. E-mail, 3. meetings, 4. phone calls, 5. television, 6. newspapers, or do you get your information from some other source?

Internet	24
E-mail	4
Meetings	1
Phone calls	1
Television	47
Newspapers	8
Other source	11
DK/NA	4

q87 Have you gotten or shared information about the Tea Party movement through Facebook, Twitter or another social-networking site?

\*\* AMONG TEA PARTY SUPPORTERS \*\*

	%
Yes	11
No	88
DK/NA	1

q88 Are you more likely to trust information you receive from other supporters of the Tea Party movement or are you more likely to trust information you receive from television or newspapers?

Other supporters	45
Television or newspapers	37
Both (vol.)	5
Neither (vol.)	7
DK/NA	6

q89 What do you think should be the MAIN goal of the Tea Party movement -- 1. Reducing the role of the federal government, 2. Cutting the federal budget, 3. Lowering taxes, 4. Electing their own candidates, 5. Creating jobs or something else?

Reduce federal government	45
Cutting budget	6
Lowering taxes	6
Electing their own candidates	7
Creating jobs	9
Something else	7
All of them (Vol.)	18
DK/NA	2

q90 Have you ever been active in a political campaign -- that is, have you worked for a candidate or party, contributed money, or done any other active work?

Yes	43
No	56
DK/NA	1

q91 Have you purchased gold coins or bars in the last twelve months, or not?

Yes	5
No	93
DK/NA	2

q95 Which one of the following television networks do you watch most for information about politics and current events -- ABC, CBS,NBC, CNN, FOX News Channel, MSNBC, or don't you watch television news?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	Total %	Tea Party Supporter %
ABC, CBS, NBC	26	11
CNN	17	7
Fox News Channel	23	63
MSNBC	3	1
Don't watch news	16	6
Other	3	1
Combination (Vol.)	11	10
DK/NA	1	1

q97 How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

			Mar10c1 %
Very concerned	36	30	35
Somewhat concerned	26	25	24
Not at all concerned	37	44	41
DK/NA	1	1	0

q98 If you were asked to use one of these five names for your social class, which would you say you belong in -- upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, working class, or lower class?

			Dec09a
Upper	2	3	3
Upper-middle	10	15	11
Middle	40	50	46
Working	34	26	31
Lower	13	5	9
DK/NA	1	1	0

q99 Do you ever feel as if you're at risk of falling out of your current social class?

\*\* THOSE WHO CHOSE A SOCIAL CLASS IN Q98 \*\*

Yes	39	41	35
No	59	58	60
DK/NA	2	1	5

q104 Do you or does any other member of your household own a handgun, rifle, shotgun, or any other kind of firearm?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

Yes, self	21	31
Yes, other	13	12
Yes, self and other	7	15
No	56	32
DK/NA	3	10

q100 How would you rate the financial situation in your household these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	Total	Tea Party Supporter	Feb10a
	%	%	%
Very good	9	8	9
Fairly good	64	70	58
Fairly bad	16	16	24
Very bad	9	4	8
DK/NA	2	2	1

q101 Which best describes the way you and your family have been affected by the recession? 1) The recession has been a hardship and caused major life changes, or 2) The recession has been difficult but not caused any major life changes, or 3) The recession has not had much affect one way or the other.

Hardship	19	14	24
Difficult	50	55	49
Not much affect	30	30	26
Positive effect (vol.)	0	0	0
DK/NA	1	1	1

q102 Will someone in your household fill out the 2010 Census form and mail it back, or not?

Will	44	39
Will not	3	1
Already did (vol.)	51	58
DK/NA	2	2

q105 Are you currently employed - either full-time or part-time - or are you temporarily out of work, or are you not in the market for work at all?

IF NOT IN MARKET FOR WORK, ASK: Are you currently retired, or not?

Currently employed	54	56
Temporarily out of work	15	6
Not in the market for work	13	5
Retired	18	32
DK/NA	0	1

q106 Are you, or is any member of your immediate family, covered by Medicare?

Yes, self	13	16
Yes, other	12	12
Yes, self and other	9	16
No	66	56
DK/NA	0	0

q107 Are you, or is any member of your immediate family, currently receiving Social Security retirement benefits?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	Total	Tea Party Supporter
	%	%
Yes, self	12	17
Yes, other	12	13
Yes, self and other	8	18
No	67	51
DK/NA	1	1

q108 BLANK

q109 Are your children currently enrolled in public school, or private school, or parochial school?

\*\* AMONG THOSE WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 \*\*

Public	70	65
Private	6	10
Parochial	2	5
Public & other	2	3
Not school age (vol.)	18	12
Home schooled (vol.)	1	5
DK/NA	1	0

q110 Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

Every week	27	38
Almost every week	8	12
Once or twice a month	12	11
A few times a year	26	22
Never	25	16
Don't know/No answer	2	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1580	
Tea Party supporters	881	288