

# National Debt

*TallahasseeVoices* is a pro bono internet survey panel sponsored by  
**Kerr & Downs Research.**

This survey was conducted in October 2013.  
437 panelists responded to the survey.

Results were weighted to reflect the demographics of the 90%+ local residents who have access to the Internet at home, work, or school.

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# Executive Summary

- In this government town, only 8% of households say they have been monetarily affected by the partial federal government shutdown
  - Whether a household member works for any level of government affects one's view of the government shutdown
  - Only 5% of households with no government employees say the partial federal government shutdown has affected them monetarily
- 43% of local residents say they have been affected non-monetarily by the shutdown
  - 13% unable to visit national parks
  - 10% suffering mental strain
  - 10% facing job complications/uncertainty

# Executive Summary

- 66% of local residents think the government is too large
- 56% of local residents believe we receive a poor return on our investment in the federal, state, and local governments
- Local residents are conflicted regarding increasing the debt limit:
  - 70% of local residents are uncomfortable with the level of federal debt
  - 52% agree the US should keep raising the debt limit as needed
  - 41% say there is no harm in raising the debt limit
  - 74% say there will be harm if congress does not raise the debt limit

The US government has been under partial shutdown for two weeks. Has this shutdown reduced the amount of money you have earned or money a business of yours has earned?



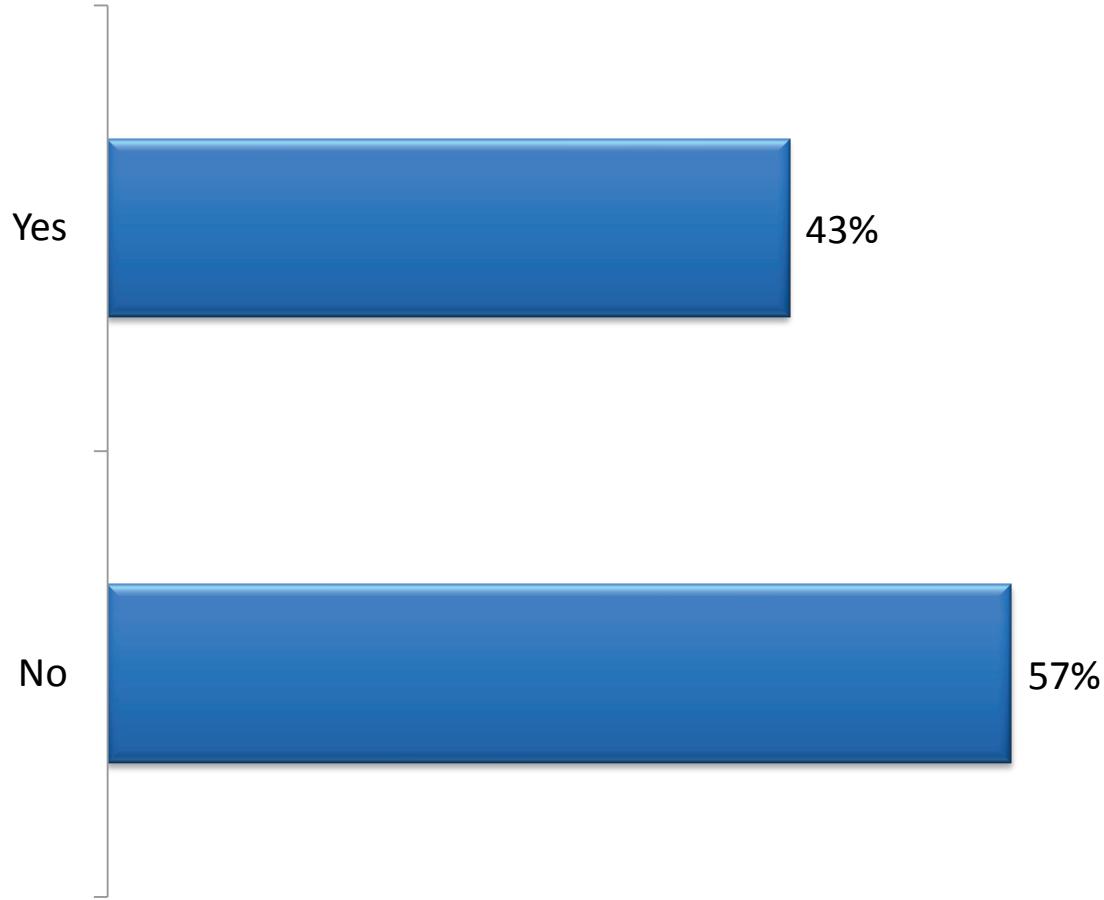
Please describe how the partial shutdown of the US government had any monetary negative effect on you.

- We do not actually work for the federal government, but we own a business that does work for the US government's national laboratories, such as Los Alamos. The labs are shutting down, which means that our work will disappear until the government reopens.
- We are due a crop payment from the federal government that is budgeted into our expenses. This won't come as scheduled, putting us in a real financial bind.
- Stock market losses.
- Reserve training cancelled.
- Programs for which we work are not receiving federal dollars, so we cannot do our jobs to help citizens. These people in need are hurting, as is our family income. Some of these state and municipality programs are funded in significant part by federal debt.
- My husband works with a company that handles state contracts, he is still waiting for most of his check but the state hasn't "dropped" them yet due to the shutdown.
- My husband is National Guard and is not doing his normal drill schedule or active duty schedule while the government is shut down.
- Loss in dollars in store cash flow.

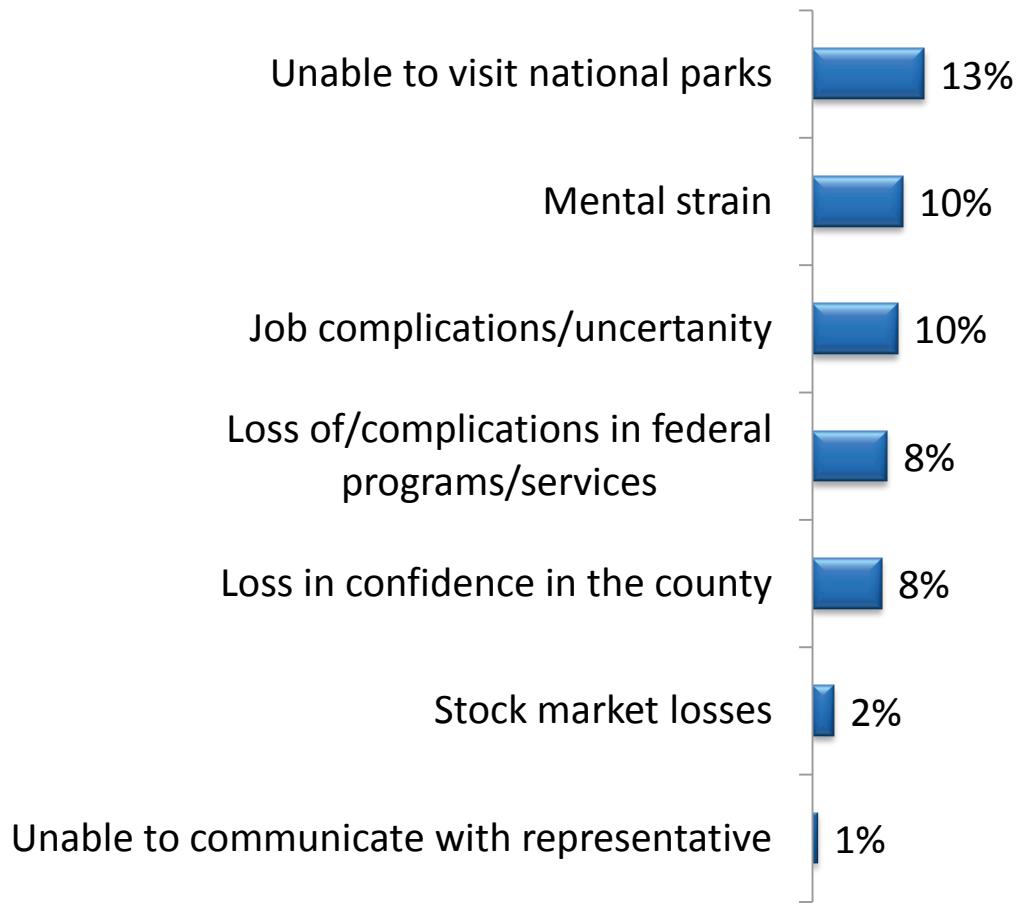
Please describe how the partial shutdown of the US government had any monetary negative effect on you.

- Interest lost due to not being reimbursed by the federal government for costs incurred. Carrying larger balances of negative cash.
- I'm sure it has affected stocks that I have invested in.
- I work in advertising, people are scared to spend money due to the shut down - thus my pay check is suffering!
- I work for the State and any small personal retirement investment I have is probably going to earn a lot less because investors are wary of the market. This shutdown is affecting how the rest of the world see the solvency of the United States.
- I own a small business that services state and federal workers. We have seen a decline in sales in the past 2+ weeks.
- I have to assume that since some of my customers are furloughed that they won't be buying as much.
- I have clients who have matters with the federal government that require my attention, but I cannot do anything until I have someone I can talk to.
- Husband works for the Federal Prison. He is working without pay currently.
- Folks are not spending money.

Has the partial shutdown of the US government had any non-monetary negative effect on you?

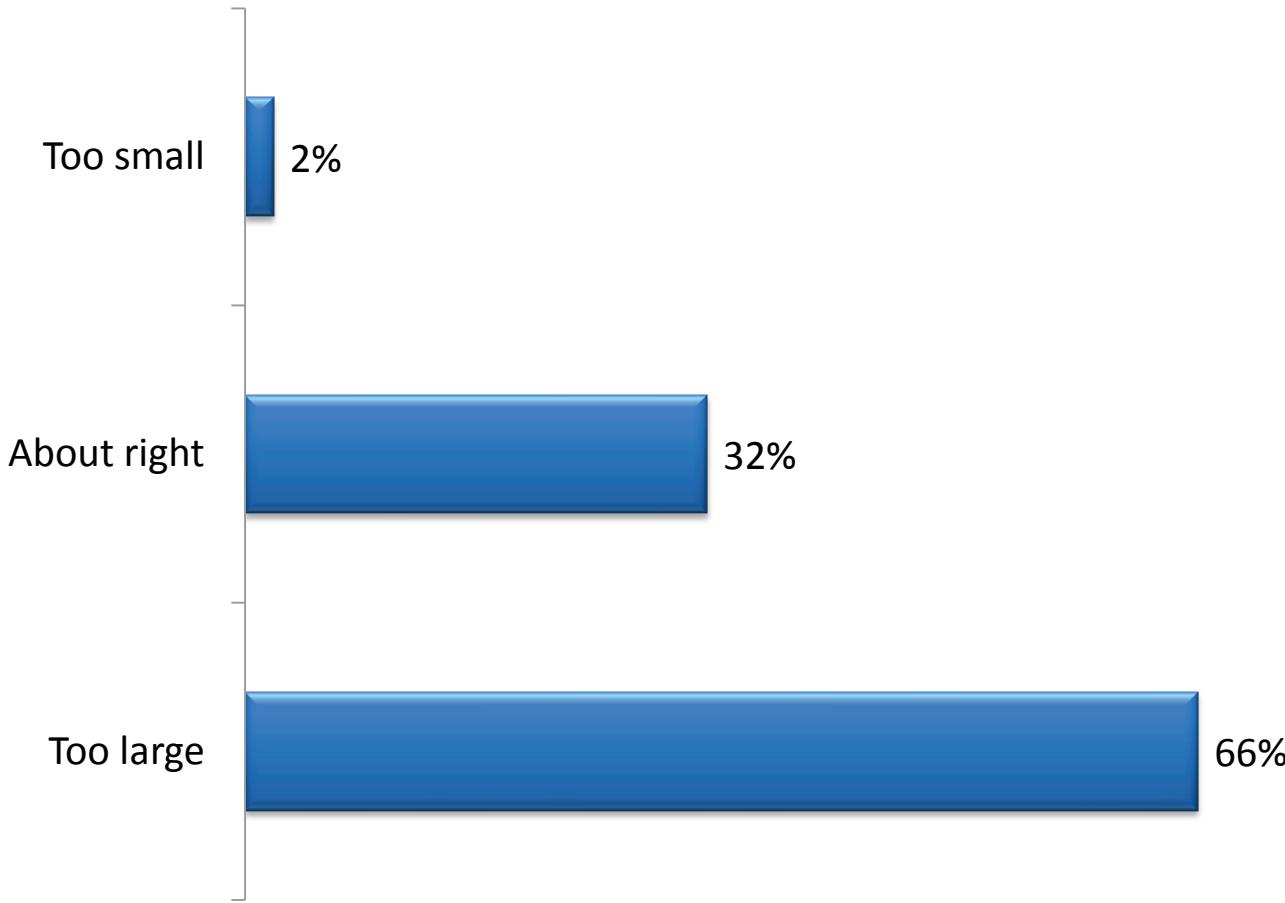


Please describe how the partial shutdown of the US government had any non-monetary negative effect on you?\*

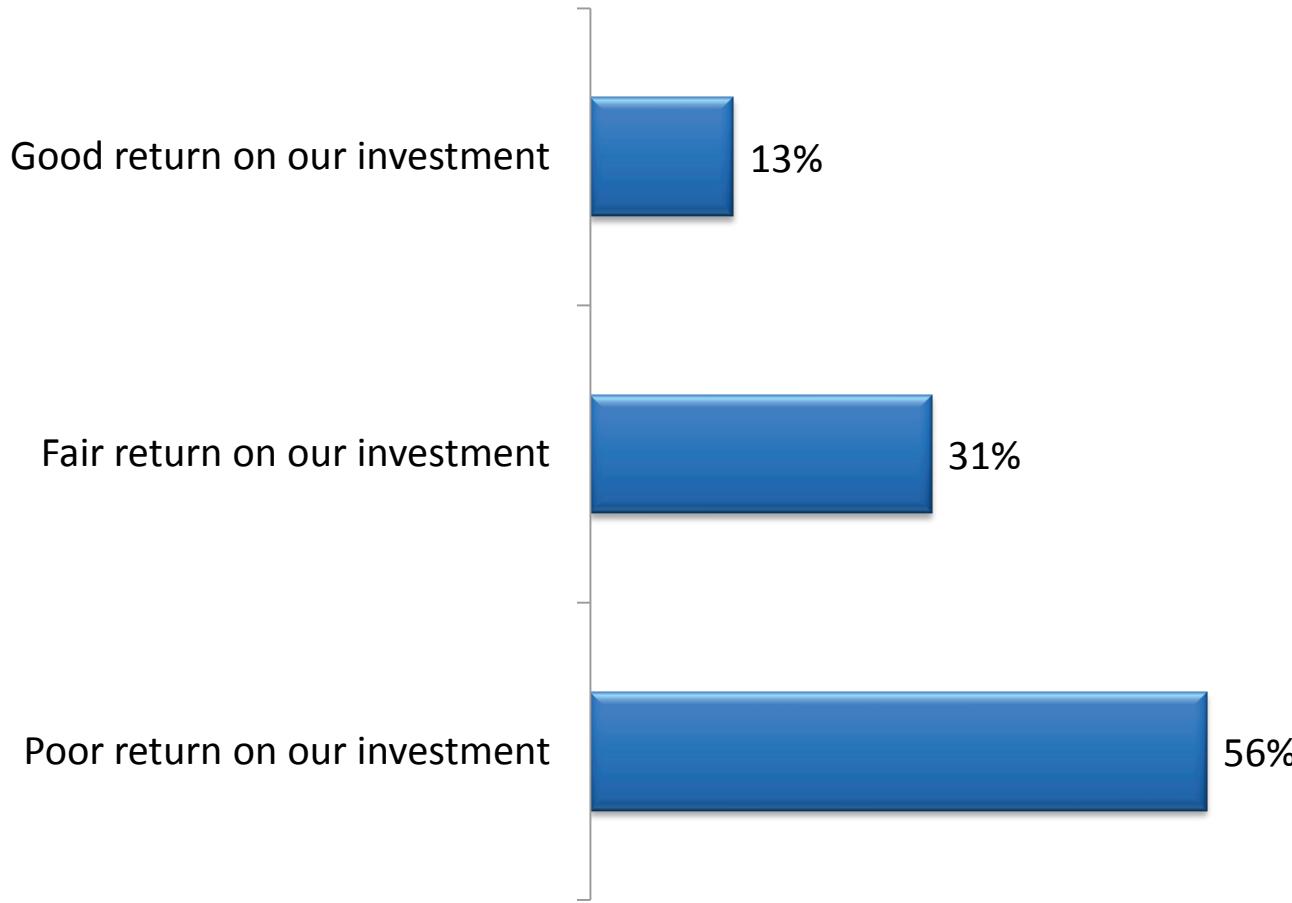


\* Responses coded from an open-ended question. Multiple responses permitted

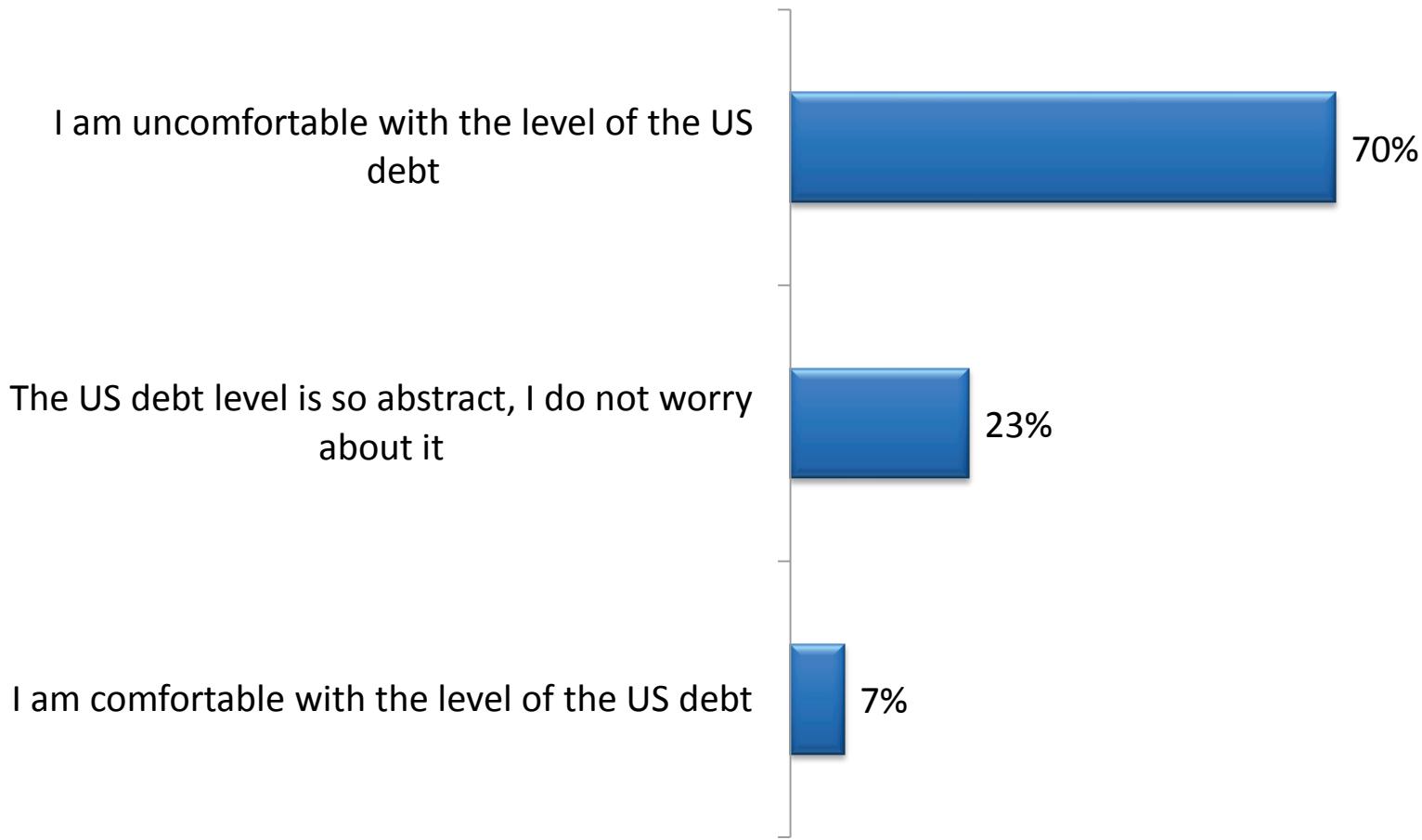
Thinking about the combined size of federal, state, and local governments, do you believe that our three levels of government are:



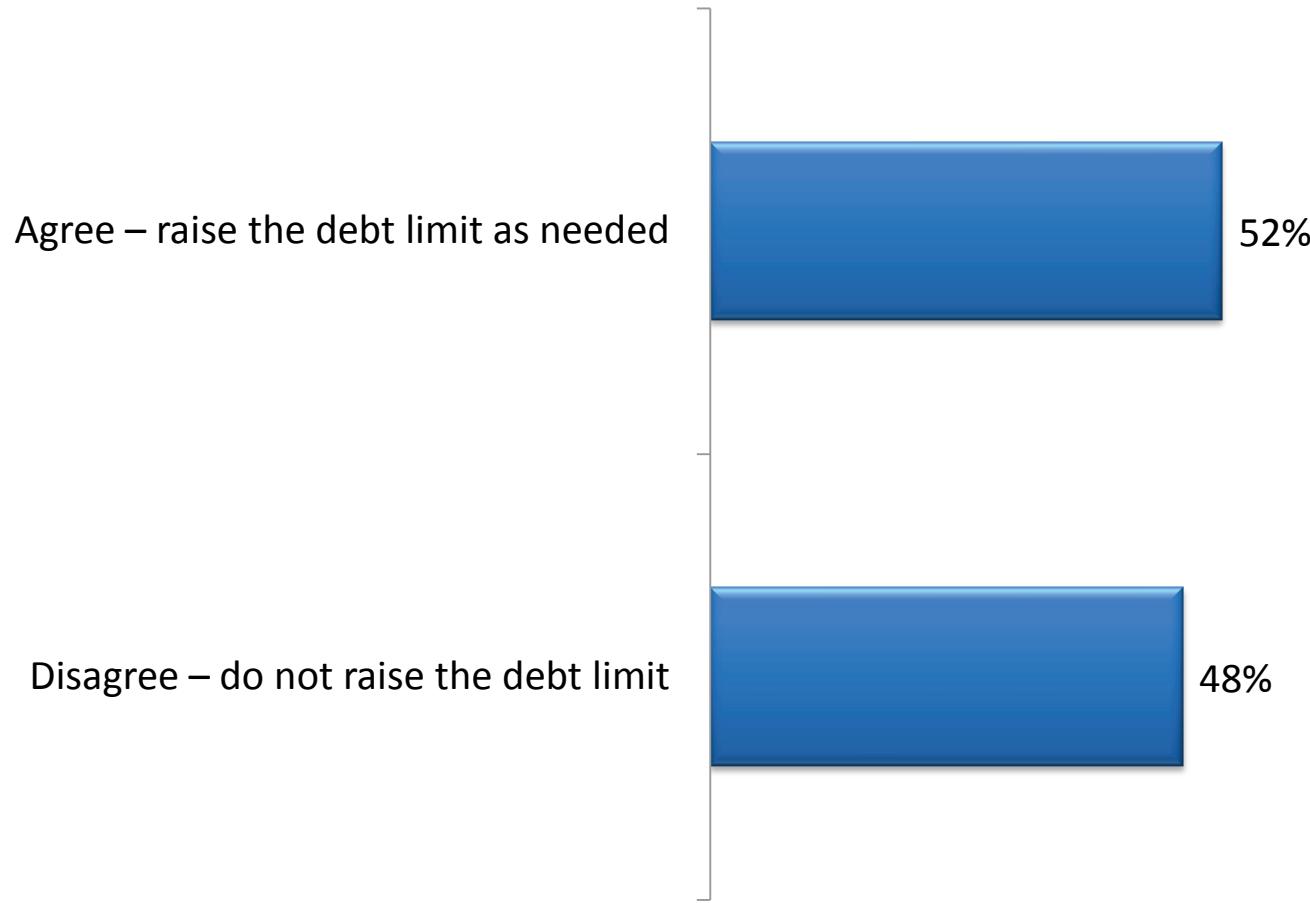
Thinking about what we pay in taxes, user fees, etc., to federal, state, and local governments, and also thinking about all the services and programs we receive from these three levels of government, do you believe we receive a:



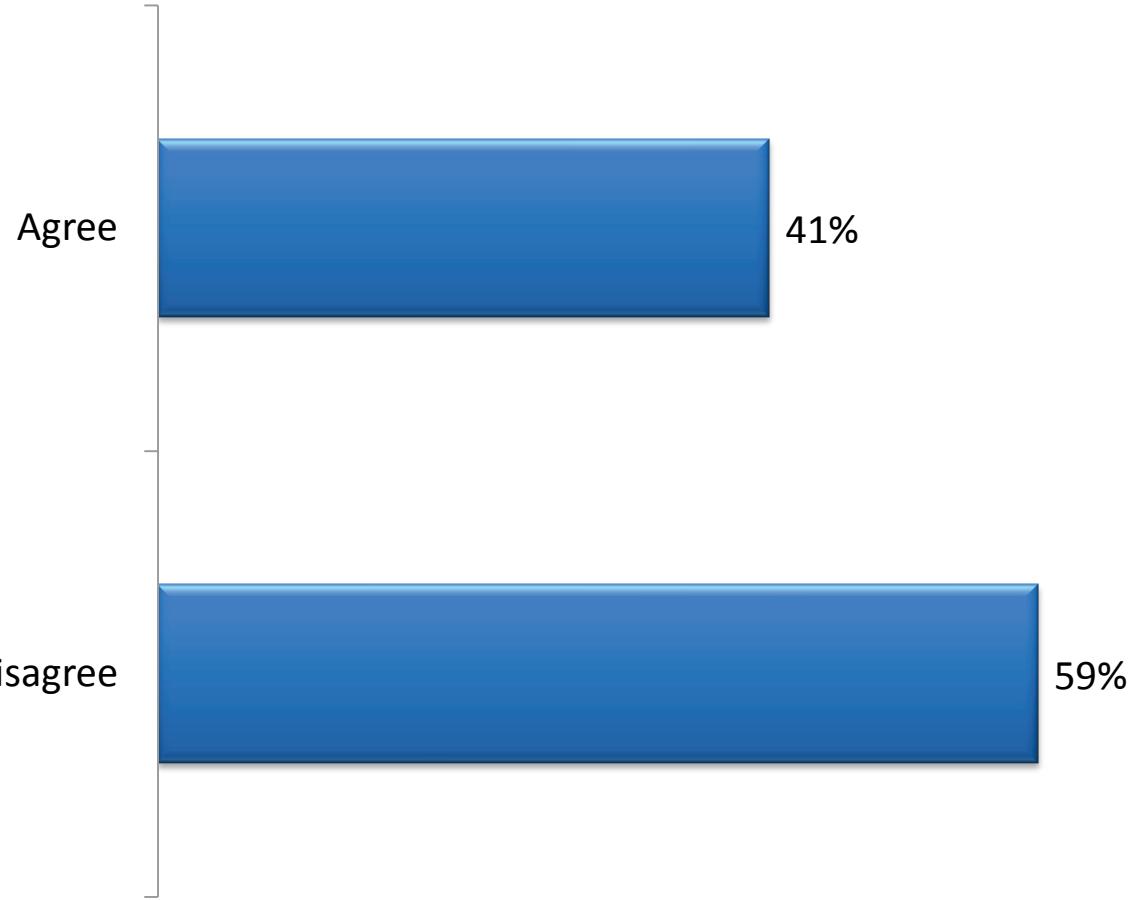
The US debt is \$16.96 trillion and the US population is 314 million. Each person's share of the US debt is approximately \$54,000. Which of the following best fits your feelings?



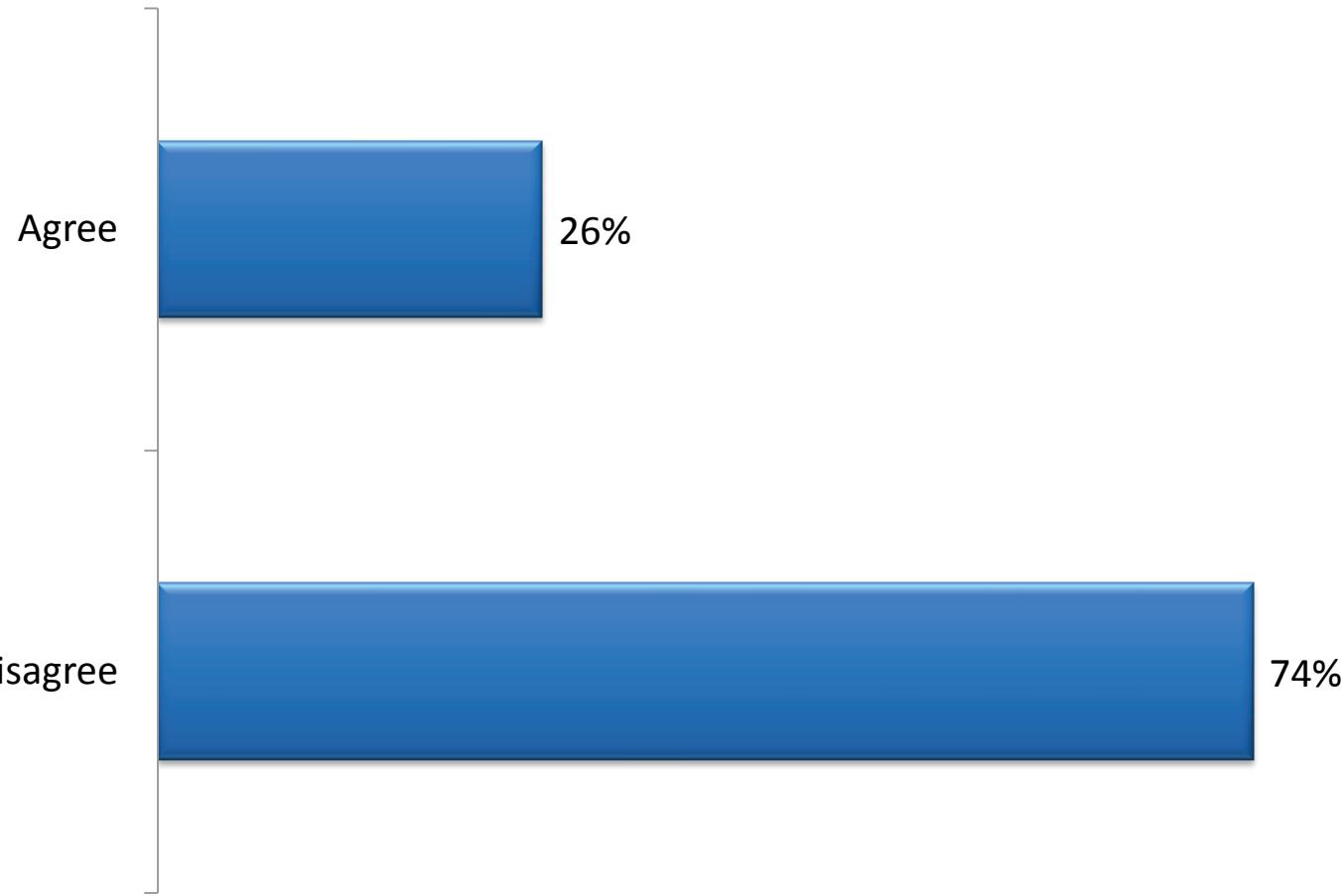
The US has raised the debt limit 10 times since 2000. Do you agree or disagree that the US should keep raising its debt limit?



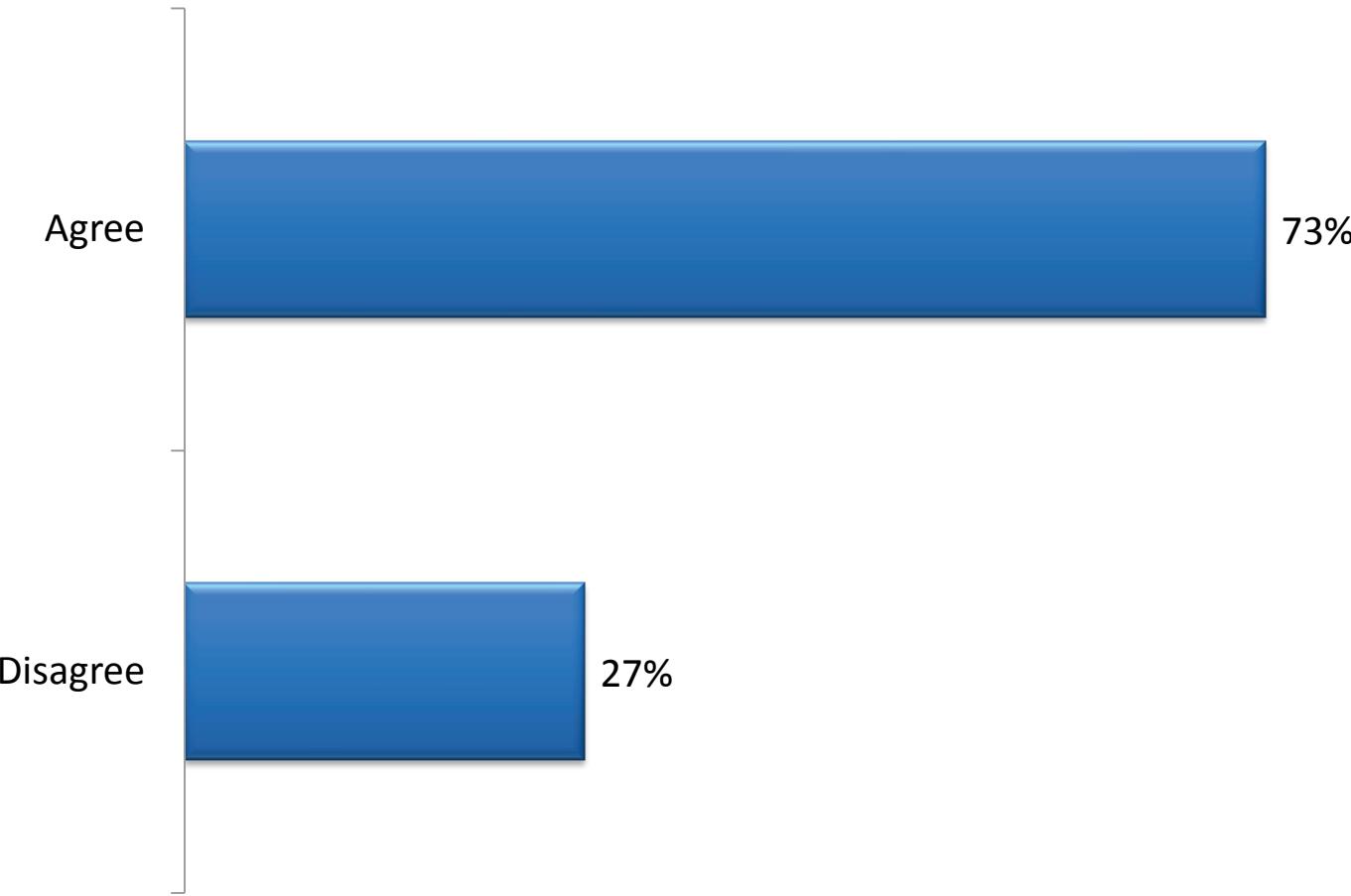
There is no harm in increasing the US debt limit.



There is no harm in congress not raising the debt limit.



Increasing the US debt level gets couched in a Democrats vs. Republicans scenario. Do you agree or disagree that couching the debt as a political party struggle blinds us to the real implications of high debt levels and ever increasing debt limits?



Does anyone in your household work for federal, state, or local government?

