

## Polling News & Notes

*Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • December 19, 2013*

**Government Dissatisfaction Passes Economy, Jobs As Most Important Issue:** Most Americans ranked the economy as the most important problem facing the country for the better part of 2013. Consider the last six months: 25% of Americans told [Gallup](#) the economy was the number one issue in June; 23% said it was the top issue in July; 25% in August; and 21% in September.

This changed in October, when the government shutdown and disastrous rollout of the Affordable Care Act led 33% of Americans to label “dissatisfaction with government” as the top concern facing the country. This continued in November when 26% said it was the top issue, and in December when 21% said so. Before October, only an average of 17% of adults said dissatisfaction with the government was the biggest problem this year.

This compares to unemployment/jobs which was ranked the number one problem by 18% in June, 19% in July and August, 17% in September, 12% in October, 13% in November, and 12% in December; and the federal budget deficit, which was ranked number one by only 7% in June, 8% in July, 6% in August, 5% in September, 12% in October and November, and 9% in December.

Healthcare was ranked the major issue by only 9% in June, 11% in July, 9% in August, 10% in September, and 12% in October. In November, after a month of Healthcare.gov failures and continuous news of dropped health plans, higher premiums, and patients losing their doctors, 19% said healthcare was the most important problem, while 17% said so in December. President Barack Obama can try pivoting to the economy, immigration, education, or guns, but until he deals with the problems his policies have already created, Americans are unlikely trust him to handle other ones.

