

# New Models The Payroll Tax Cut and Unemployment Insurance Extension with Female Obama Independents

December 2011

## OVERVIEW

Presentation Testing conducted two focus groups in Las Vegas, NV, on December 12 and December 13, 2011. One group contained 11 female Obama Independents between the ages of 18 and 59 (“younger Obama Independents”), and the other contained 11 female Obama Independents at least 60 years of age (“older Obama Independents”). All of the younger Obama Independents have at least some college education.

In each session, we gathered moment-to-moment readings during a 21-minute video using our dial testing methodology (with a disagreement/agreement scale of zero to 100), and followed up with an in-depth discussion about the extension of the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance being considered in Congress. The conservative advocate in the video was Jean, and the liberal advocate was Carla; they are referenced throughout the report.

## KEY FINDINGS

### 1) Female Obama Independents overwhelmingly support Carla’s argument over Jean’s argument.

After showing the point and counter-point debate between Carla and Jean, we asked respondents to tell us with whom they agree more. Overall, 17 out of 22 female Obama Independents support Carla’s argument.

The following chart shows how younger and older Obama Independent females responded to this question.

	Fem. IND Obama 60+	Fem. IND Obama 18-59
Jean (conservative position)	3	2
Carla (liberal position)	8	9

Those in the minority who agree more with Jean’s position told us:

“I have had two different lifestyles in my lifetime. I have been so poor that I dug for food in trash cans while pregnant with a child and not able to get any benefits from the government, period. I have also been in a position where I had up to \$30,000 a weekend to go blow as I saw fit and all my stuff was paid for and I lived in a \$16 million house. Also being in the middle, I can tell you that whatever you do, just like [Jean] said, everything has to be paid for. Just because somebody tells you they’re going to do something for you does not mean they’re going to do it, and we’ve seen it repeatedly on both sides of the government. My issue is you can give somebody a whole lot of this, that, and the other, but somebody in the end has to pay for it. If they’re not taking the money out of their pocket, whose pocket is it coming out of? You can’t keep giving and giving and giving. That’s what caused the fall of Rome. [Rome] did the same thing we’re doing now.” – Lynette, Younger Obama Independent

“I’m just concerned about the long-term effect of our country. Again, we have to pay for everything. We all have to chip in. We all have to pay our taxes. Being Swedish, I know it firsthand. I don’t mind paying higher taxes as long as my money is not mismanaged. I don’t mind. I want to see this country get back on its feet. I want to see it prosper again. I will be happy to do my share and pay higher taxes but if they’re going to mismanage my money, then that’s a different story. It’s the long-term effect. We have to pay for all these benefits – unemployment, Social Security, Medicare. I’m concerned about that. We have to find solutions.” – Cecilia, Younger Obama Independent

We asked Lynette and Cecilia (the two respondents above who supported Jean’s argument) what Jean could have said that she did not say that would have made her argument more effective. Lynette said that Jean failed to say that people receiving unemployment benefits do have other sources of income. Lynette said that a lot of people receiving unemployment benefits are working for cash “under the table.” Cecilia said she could not think of anything that Jean could have said to strengthen her argument.

When we asked Carla’s supporters why they agree with her more than Jean, we heard:

“I supported Carla because we have to think about right now, what’s happening right now. I know the future is important but we’ve got people starving. We’ve got people homeless and it’s becoming more and more, and these are middle class people that are now becoming homeless. These are people who have children and have families. For the first time, we have middle class people that are homeless. I think it’s more important what’s going on now than in the future because if we don’t concentrate on what’s new, there will be no future. I think the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and now the middle class is even getting poorer. I think that taxing those millionaires and billionaires is important.” – Susan, Younger Obama Independent

“Being on both sides of the spectrum, being a CEO and then unemployed, I ended up having to be on unemployment for about a year and a half. I decided, because I sent out probably 1,500 to 2,000 resumes in a year and a half and only got five responses for an interview, I created my own job. I created my own way to afford to live because

unemployment wasn't doing it. I never went down to D.E.T.R. (Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation), but I was hearing from friends that did go down. There were people that were making in excess of \$100,000 that were in line trying to get benefits and things like that. I think the unemployment benefits are significant and it helps people here in this community. There are people that are looking for work that can't get jobs. I was told by D.E.T.R. when I had my first initial interview that I'm a hard case to find a position because of my qualifications. I had to come to terms where I had to figure out what I do best that I can make money, and that's what I did." – Theresa, Younger Obama Independent

"I feel that without a middle class, there is no country. The middle class is most important to make the country work... [Carla talked about] helping people that need help, and there are more and more every day." – Phyllis, Older Obama Independent

"I want to be objective about this because we have to remember that they're both actresses. I sided with Carla because I believe that she has the strongest interpretation of what President Obama is trying to do for the middle class in this country because over the past 20 years, the middle class has been whittled away. It's getting the line of demarcation between the rich and the poor... If the wealthy are the job creators, then why don't we have any jobs that pay any money? I was in a very middle class occupation. I sold timeshares. In 2008 when the recession hit, you could hear the door clang because of Wall Street, what happened to people's pensions, what was happening to their money when the banks and Wall Street puts the screws to this country. I really sided with Carla." – Margaret, Older Obama Independent

We asked those who supported Carla's argument what she could have said that she did not say that would have made her argument more effective. A younger Obama Independent said that Carla should have said that the wealthy should try to help out and give back. One of the older Obama Independents said she wishes both Carla and Jean would have discussed more alternative ways for paying for the extension of unemployment benefits. Another older Obama Independent said that Carla should have emphasized more that we are still in a recession.

**2) Although 17 out of the 22 female Obama Independents sided more with Carla's argument than Jean's argument, the messaging we tested came from early December. After the taping, the debate evolved quickly, so post-video we also tested the 27 provisions of the House GOP plan as stand-alone statements, one at a time, and we found strong agreement with much of what the House proposed.**

- a) ALL of the provisions scored above 5.0 (neutral) with younger female Obama Independents, and almost all scored above 5.0 with the older female Obama independents.
- b) Six of the 27 provisions scored extremely high (above 8.0) among female Independents who voted for Obama. These statements and their scores are shown in the following chart:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Fem. IND Obama 60+</b>	<b>Fem. IND Obama 18-59</b>
The bill ensures that illegal immigrants who are not eligible to work in the U.S. do not get checks from the IRS. It saves \$9.4 billion.	9.5	9.5	9.5
The bill requires all state and federal unemployment insurance recipients, as a condition of eligibility, to search for work, be in a GED program if they have not finished high school (with common-sense exceptions such as for older workers), and participate in re-employment services to help them get back to work.	9.2	9.5	8.8
The bill closes the current “strip club loophole” to ensure that welfare funds cannot be accessed in strip clubs, liquor stores, and casinos by blocking welfare electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards from working in ATMs there.	8.8	9.2	8.4
The bill prohibits millionaires from receiving unemployment insurance and food stamp benefits. It saves \$20 million.	8.6	8.8	8.5
The bill extends the current pay freeze for federal workers (including Members of Congress) through FY 2013. It saves \$26 billion.	8.5	9.5	7.5
The measure allows states, if they desire, to perform drug screening and testing as a condition of providing unemployment insurance benefits in order to improve prospects for future employment.	8.1	7.5	8.8

Many of the top-scoring provisions overlapped between older female Obama Independents and younger female Obama Independents. These were the ones related to rooting out waste of one kind or another.

The two lowest-scoring provisions of the bill are shown in the following chart:

	Total	Fem. IND Obama 60+	Fem. IND Obama 18-59
Recognizing that unemployment services should focus on helping Americans get back to work, the bill uses a two-step process to gradually reduce current maximum weeks of benefits from 99 to 59 weeks.	5.3	4.9	5.6
The bill repeals \$8 billion in ObamaCare mandatory funding from the unaccountable “prevention and public health fund,” which the House voted to defund earlier this year.	4.6	4.0	5.2

These respondents were strongly against cutting unemployment insurance, saying that they know a lot of people who have looked actively for work and rely on these dollars, and that 99 weeks of benefits have *not* been used as a way to keep people from seeking employment.

**3) Female Obama Independents did not know that workers this year are paying less in FICA taxes than workers in 2009. Among younger female Obama Independents, there is far more interest in unemployment benefits than the payroll tax cut.**

Only one of the 11 younger Obama Independents knew that a worker making \$40K in gross wages in 2011 will pay less in FICA taxes this year than that same worker did in 2009 also making \$40K.

Only three of the 11 younger Obama Independents said that they themselves, or workers they knew, got a payroll tax cut this year. And in a written exercise, four of the 11 younger Obama Independents knew nothing about debate in Washington, DC over the payroll tax cut, two others only knew that there was some deadline looming, and the rest had only superficial or vague ideas about what the debate was about. There was NO explanation that sounded anything like this: “Republicans and Democrats are debating whether the payroll tax cuts that are in effect should continue for another year, and if they continue, how they should be paid for.” In fact, no one mentioned the pay-for at all.

In a discussion about payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits with younger female Obama Independents, the benefits are of far more interest—and carry far more resonance—than payroll tax cuts. After showing a video where both sides of the payroll tax cut debate and unemployment benefits debate were played out, our female Independents made their judgment about who they sided with in the video based primarily on the actresses’ positions on unemployment insurance, *not* payroll tax cuts.

Remember: Almost all the respondents don’t know that workers got a payroll tax cut this year, but they all seem to know people collecting unemployment insurance.

Remarkably, like the younger female group, most older females did not know that workers this year are paying less in FICA taxes than workers in 2009, and only three of 11 knew that workers in 2011 will be getting a payroll tax cut.

**4) Female Obama Independents do not know anything about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project.**

Not a single younger female Obama Independent could tell the moderator anything about the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline.

Only one older female Obama Independent had heard of the Keystone XL pipeline project, and she was very negative about it—saying it was a distraction by Republicans from other issues of higher priority.

**5) There is strong support for raising taxes on the wealthy to pay for the extension of the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance, and for excluding the wealthy from government programs.**

Respondents generally support means testing for unemployment compensation, Medicare, and food stamps so millionaires are not receiving federal benefits that may be better targeted elsewhere.

During the moment-to-moment dial testing, the average score dropped from 71 to 40 among younger Obama Independents when Jean said that taxes should not be raised on anyone.

We asked young female Obama Independents how big of a problem it is for them that millionaires are receiving federal benefits, such as unemployment benefits. Some respondents expressed confusion about how millionaires could be receiving such benefits.

We asked young female Obama Independents how high an income someone should have to earn to be excluded from receiving unemployment benefits. Support for giving high earners unemployment benefits declines in the \$250,000 to \$500,000 annual salary range. A few respondents believe that anyone who loses their job, regardless of how high his or her salary may have been, should be eligible for unemployment benefits because they contributed to the unemployment insurance fund.

An older female Obama Independent pointed out that President Obama wanted to end the tax cuts for the wealthy at the end of 2010, but he had to extend them to reach a deal on the initial payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance extension.

**6) Female Obama Independents are skeptical that raising taxes harms job creation**

During the moment-to-moment dial testing, the average score dropped nine and 14 points among younger and older female Obama Independents, respectively, when Jean said that raising taxes could harm job creation, which shows their disagreement with her statement.

In our discussion with younger Obama Independents, we heard:

“I disagree [that raising taxes harms job creation]. We have to pay for all this. We have to increase our taxes. As a country, we have been pretty privileged that in the United States, historically, if we look back after the Vietnam War, historically, we pay less taxes today than we have ever done. We have to pay for it.” –Cecilia, Younger Obama Independent

In our discussion with older Obama Independents, a respondent told us:

“It’s the wealthy who had their tax cuts extended for a year now. Actually, George Bush started those tax cuts for the wealthy. If they are the job creators, where are the jobs? They are sitting on money.” – Margaret, Older Obama Independent

#### **7) Most respondents believe that the payroll tax cut is helping the economy and should be extended for more than one year**

Younger female Obama Independents strongly disagree that the payroll tax cut should be extended for one more year only. During the moment-to-moment dial testing, the average score dropped from 67 to 39 among younger Obama Independents when Jean said that the payroll tax cut is a temporarily stimulus with no lasting impact. Also, the average score for older Obama Independents dropped from 57 to 46 when Jean said the payroll tax cut should be extended for one more year only. We heard:

“They’re talking about us, the common folk. We’re tired of paying and watching everybody else, they get to live so high on the hog and I know how it is because I’ve been there.” – Lynette, Younger Obama Independent

“I think they need to extend it for a couple more years. ” – Mechelle, Younger Obama Independent

One younger Obama Independent said that there should be a small tax increase on millionaires and billionaires to pay for the payroll tax cut for a couple more years until we have recovered from this economic mess and wealthy people and corporations should pay for it.

The moderator asked younger female Obama Independents how they would feel if the higher taxes on businesses led to the increased costs being passed on to consumers. This idea is a cause for concern among younger Obama Independents. One respondent told us:

“It concerns me, but people will do like they do now. They’ll cut out all the luxuries and only buy what they need to buy. They’ll just change their lifestyle.” – Wendy, Younger Obama Independent

(Note: The issue of higher taxes on businesses leading to increased costs being passed on to consumers was not discussed with older Obama Independents.)

**8) There is strong agreement among female Obama Independents that people want to work, and there are currently not enough jobs available. We need to do everything we can to help make people more employable—including making them get a GED and take a drug test**

During the moment-to-moment dial testing, the average score dropped 11 and 14 points among younger and older Obama Independents, respectively, when Jean said that unemployment insurance is rife with corruption and perverse incentives, such as people not accepting employment because they want to hold out for a better paying job. Female Obama Independents clearly do not agree with Jean’s statement.

In our discussion about this issue of people wanting to work, female Obama Independents told us:

“There are people out there that are genuinely out there looking for work. We meet them every day. We know them personally. They are hitting the pavement looking for work so where they get this thing in their minds, beats me.” – Debbie, Younger Obama Independent

“It’s like they assume everybody that’s on unemployment [isn’t looking hard for a job]. That’s not true. You have these job fairs. They have 50 positions available and you’ve got 1,000 people sitting out there for that same position. You may hire 50 people but you’ve still got 900 people out of a job.” – Michelle, Younger Obama Independent

“I was unemployed in my career two different times and if I hadn’t been collecting unemployment, we would have found it very difficult. At one point I was the breadwinner of the two of us. I think [unemployment benefits] needed to be extended and [Jean] is complaining that we shouldn’t extend [unemployment benefits]. I don’t think the people are sticking their hands out asking for a handout. I think people are legitimately looking for a job.” – Becky, Older Obama Independent

The following chart shows two provisions of a proposed bill that we asked Obama Independents to score.

	Total	Fem. IND Obama 60+	Fem. IND Obama 18-59

The bill requires all state and federal unemployment insurance recipients, as a condition of eligibility, to search for work, be in a GED program if they have not finished high school (with common-sense exceptions such as for older workers), and participate in re-employment services to help them get back to work.	9.2	9.5	8.8
The measure allows states, if they desire, to perform drug screening and testing as a condition of providing unemployment insurance benefits in order to improve prospects for future employment.	8.1	7.5	8.8

We asked respondents to explain why these statements received such high scores. They agree that we need to help unemployed people become more employable.

In our discussion about the first provision, respondents told us:

“You need to search for work if you’re going to get the unemployment, and they want you to at least have a high school, GED level [education]. I agree because I think that’s how it should be.” – Mechelle, Younger Obama Independent

“I think it’s important. It’s so much about self-esteem. If we can help empower people, get their education, give them the confidence to get out there, and help them find a job, any job will help your self-esteem.” – Cecilia, Younger Obama Independent

In our discussion about the second provision, we heard:

“That [provision] is really good. I actually know people who have gotten so depressed from not having a job that led to drugs. I think that’s a big thing, when you’re out of work, you have so much time on your hands, they get into bad stuff. That’s why they need to start looking for jobs and keep on those people because they’re wasting money on stuff that they don’t need.” – Susan, Younger Obama Independent

One younger Obama Independent said that drug screenings should be conducted for all benefits programs, not just unemployment benefits. She said some people sell their food stamps to buy drugs. In addition, she said our country has to do something to resolve the problem of illegal immigration, which is harming our country economically.

**9) Although there is strong resentment of government workers among both younger and older Obama Independents, there is some resistance to the idea that their wages should be frozen to pay for the extension of the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance.**

We asked young Obama Independents why, on average, they are so lukewarm about the idea of freezing federal wages. In this group, we heard:

“Some of these people have already had cuts to their hours as it is. Some people, even state workers as well, have gone to reduced work days to four days a week. They’ve already taken a hit, too. They’re used to a certain level of comfort in their lives. That’s impacted other people as well. It’s not just middle class. It’s not just lower class. They have, as well, been affected by this. Some of them, yes I do agree, probably get overpaid, like my sister-in-law.” – Michelle, Young Obama Independent

When we asked younger Obama Independents if they believe that non-military government workers are overpaid, eight of 11 said yes. Note: We did not ask older Obama Independents this question.

Several of the younger Obama Independents said it would be helpful to understand what the salaries are for different professions within the federal government, such as Members of Congress, postal workers, and janitors.

We asked young Obama Independents what Jean could have said to strengthen her argument about federal workers having their wages frozen.

“[Jean] could have brought up why we, taxpayers, pay for their pensions where so many other employees, we have lost our pensions. Why should we, taxpayers, pay for all these federal employees’ pensions?” – Cecilia, Younger Obama Independent

Among older Obama Independents, there is some agreement that the federal government should reduce its work force by 200,000 over time. They expressed their belief that we have far too many federal workers, their jobs are too secure, and much of the work they do overlaps with other parts of the government.

The dial-testing results tell us that, with an average agreement score of 8.5 out of 10 overall, female Obama Independents strongly support federal workers having their wages frozen through fiscal year 2013.

However, they did not verbally express support for federal workers having their wages frozen to pay for the payroll tax cut and the extension of unemployment insurance. Instead, they repeatedly expressed their support for taxing millionaires, billionaires, and businesses to pay for these programs.

If you're going to argue for freezing the pay for federal workers, you need to do three things: a) specify that it does not apply to active-duty military, b) give some statistics as to how much certain federal workers are overpaid, and c) put Members of Congress first in your rhetoric.

**10) When given various alternatives, respondents said the payroll tax cut is acceptable for 2012 if it is paid for through a surtax on millionaires or cuts in other parts of the budget. There's a strong willingness among female Obama Independents to make the wealthy (individuals and corporations) pay their fair share. It's not acceptable if there are reduced funds going into the Social Security fund. There is confusion about how the payroll tax cut would affect Social Security's finances**

Younger Obama Independents agree that any drop in revenue from the payroll tax cut that is not paid for will harm Social Security and accelerate the program's looming bankruptcy. During the discussion with older Obama Independents, the moderator pointed out that the group did not seem to have much to say about the virtues and shortcomings of extending the payroll tax cut. One respondent told us that having a bill that combines the payroll tax cut extension and unemployment extension with the Keystone XL energy pipeline proposal as a rider is confusing to everyone. The goals of the bill are not clear and these policies are being used as pawns in this political game.

The moderator asked older Obama Independents why they are not very upset about the idea of more than a hundred billion dollars being pulled out of Social Security. (Admittedly this is a strong and somewhat inaccurate way to portray it—but it was done for a reason.) Two respondents doubt that the politicians would listen to them if they were to express their disapproval about money being pulled out of Social Security.

The moderator then asked older female Obama Independents if it would be OK for money to be pulled out of Social Security for a year or two to pay for the continuation of the payroll tax cut because people are struggling so much. The overwhelming response was “no” – Social Security needs to be protected. The moderator's question led to the following statement, which exposed confusion among older Obama Independents about the way Social Security is structured. We heard:

“Why is [the money] coming out of Social Security?...I always thought Social Security, when you put it in, it stays there and it goes to you and you and you when you turn a certain age. I never thought that they were allowed to take [money] out until recently. My husband explained that to me.” – Rhoda, Older Obama Independent

The moderator explained that because less money would be going into Social Security, equal savings would have to be found elsewhere in the federal budget to pay for Social Security benefits.

One older Obama Independent expressed frustration that money had been stolen from the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for wars and believes that action was criminal.

Older Obama Independents agree that there are complexities about whether to extend the payroll tax cut and if so, how to pay for it.

**11) Nearly 2/3 of respondents believe that *both* President Obama and House Republicans proposed and support the ideas of 27 key provisions in the House GOP bill. Nearly all of them believe that the provisions in the bill sound like ideas that President Obama would propose and support**

We asked respondents to tell us who they believe proposed and supports the 27 provisions in this bill: President Obama only, House Republicans only, or both President Obama and House Republicans. Overall, 15 of 22 female Obama Independents thought that both President Obama and House Republicans proposed and support the proposed bill that we discussed. Seven of 22 Obama Independents believe that only House Republicans proposed and support the bill. No one believes that only President Obama proposed and supports this bill.

The following chart shows how female younger and older Obama Independents responded to this question:

	Fem. IND Obama 60+	Fem. IND Obama 18-59
President Obama only	0	0
House Republicans only	2	5
Both President Obama and House Republicans	9	6

We asked younger Obama Independents to explain what signaled to them that President Obama was not supporting these provisions by himself. One younger Obama Independent told us she knew because many of the provisions mentioned saving money and Obama is spending a lot of money. Another told us she knew President Obama was not the only one to propose and support these provisions because ObamaCare was referenced in a negative way.

We also asked younger female Obama Independents to tell us what led them to believe that both President Obama and House Republicans proposed and support this bill. One respondent said that some of the provisions sounded liberal and some provisions sounded conservative. Other provisions sounded more moderate.

We then asked older female Obama Independents what makes them think that Obama supports at least some of those provisions. They believe that President Obama would support these provisions because it saves billions of dollars and prevents millionaires from being able to collect to collect unemployment insurance and food stamps. We also asked respondents why they believe the House Republicans support the provisions in this bill. They told us that the ideas of getting people their GEDs and drug testing sounded like Republican ideas.

Later in the discussion, we asked those older Obama Independents who thought that both President Obama and House Republicans contributed provisions to this bill whether the 27 provisions sounded **more** like initiatives that would come from President Obama, or House Republicans. Eight of those nine respondents thought that these proposals sounded more like ideas that President Obama would propose and support. Interestingly, these women think that the provisions to cut spending, and root out waste and fraud, are ones that President Obama would be advancing, not the House Republicans. They see President Obama as the fiscally responsible one. Republicans were the ones who wasted money on the wars under former President Bush and caused the massive debt.

**12) There is strong support among female Obama Independents for President Obama to sign a bill with the 27 provisions that were discussed in this session.**

We asked female Obama Independents if President Obama should sign a bill containing these 27 provisions.

The following chart shows how younger and older Obama Independents responded to this question:

	Fem. IND Obama 60+	Fem. IND Obama 18-59
Supports Obama signing bill	9	8
Opposes Obama signing bill	2	3

We asked the few young female Obama Independents who said that they do **not** believe that President Obama should sign this bill why he should not do so. They told us that President Obama should not sign a bill with these provisions because there are cuts to Medicare, the bill increases their concerns about Medicare and Social Security, and they have concerns about the drug testing. One respondent told us that there should be money to help drug users “clean up” in the bill. Otherwise, she would have supported this bill’s being signed into law. An older Obama Independent told us that President Obama should not sign this bill into law because of the proposed Keystone XL energy pipeline project.

Nine of the 11 older female Obama Independents say that President Obama should sign the bill with the 27 provisions. At the risk of sounding a bit like Mrs. Pelosi, people like the bill when they know what’s in it, and this bill does not sound like a GOP wish-list.

**13) Respondents believe it’s OK to cut the payroll tax for American workers, but *not* if it means reducing revenues going into Social Security. Paying for the tax cut with either revenue increased on millionaires, or reductions in spending, are both acceptable**

Before showing the video debate, we asked these four questions about cutting the payroll tax:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Fem. IND Obama 60+</b>	<b>Fem. IND Obama 18-59</b>
On a scale from zero to 10, how acceptable is it for leaders in Washington to cut payroll (FICA) taxes for American workers from 6.2% to 4.2%?	6.5	5.4	7.5
On a scale from zero to 10, how acceptable is it for leaders in Washington to reduce payroll taxes from 6.2% to 4.2% next year, thereby reducing the amount of money going directly into the Social Security system in 2012 by more than \$100 billion? Is that... 0 = Not at all acceptable, 10 = Very acceptable	3.5	2.5	4.5
Leaders in Washington want to reduce payroll taxes from 6.2% to 4.2% next year, thereby reducing the amount of money going directly into the Social Security system in 2012 by more than \$100 billion. In order to help pay for that tax cut, some leaders in Washington would place a 1.9% surtax, for the next 10 years, on incomes above \$1 million a year. On a scale from zero to 10, is that plan... 0 = Not at all acceptable, 10 = Very acceptable	8.1	7.7	8.5
Leaders in Washington want to reduce payroll taxes from 6.2% to 4.2% next year, thereby reducing the amount of money directly going into the Social Security system in 2012 by more than \$100 billion. In order to pay for this payroll tax cut, some leaders in Washington would require cuts in other parts of the Federal budget over the next 10 years that add up to more than \$100 billion, and credit that savings to Social Security. On a scale from zero to 10, is that plan... 0 = Not at all acceptable, 10 = Very acceptable	8.2	8.2	8.1

**ADDENDUM: PROVISIONS IN HOUSE BILL RANKED ON ZERO-TO-10 SCALE OF AGREEMENT:**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Fem. IND Obama 60+</b>	<b>Fem. IND Obama 18-59</b>
The bill ensures that illegal immigrants who are not eligible to work in the U.S. do not get checks from the IRS. It saves \$9.4 billion.	9.5	9.5	9.5
The bill requires all state and federal unemployment insurance recipients, as a condition of eligibility, to search for work, be in a GED program if they have not finished high school (with common-sense exceptions such as for older workers), and participate in re-employment services to help them get back to work.	9.2	9.5	8.8
The bill closes the current “strip club loophole” to ensure that welfare funds cannot be accessed in strip clubs, liquor stores, and casinos by blocking welfare electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards from working in ATMs there.	8.8	9.2	8.4
The bill prohibits millionaires from receiving unemployment insurance and food stamp benefits. It saves \$20 million.	8.6	8.8	8.5
The bill extends the current pay freeze for federal workers (including Members of Congress) through FY 2013. It saves \$26 billion.	8.5	9.5	7.5
The measure allows states, if they desire, to perform drug screening and testing as a condition of providing unemployment insurance benefits in order to improve prospects for future employment.	8.1	7.5	8.8
The bill gradually increases Medicare premiums for high income beneficiaries. It saves \$31 billion.	7.8	7.5	8.2
The bill ensures that taxes will stay lower for the nearly 170 million Americans who pay payroll taxes, with the average working family saving \$1,000 in 2012.	7.7	7.0	8.4
The bill updates certain provider payment methodologies to reduce wasteful spending. It saves \$21.5 billion.	7.7	6.8	8.5

The measure extends 100 percent business expensing through 2012 to make it easier for employers, small and large, to invest now in new machinery and equipment, grow their businesses, and create jobs.	7.6	7.2	8.0
The bill targets waste, fraud, and abuse by improving the accuracy and administration of unemployment insurance benefits.	7.5	7.2	7.8
The bill better coordinates with states and localities to prevent Social Security overpayments. It saves \$3 billion.	7.3	6.5	8.2
The measure protects the Social Security Trust Fund from being harmed by cutting government spending and directing those savings to replenish the trust fund.	7.3	6.8	7.8
The bill changes the co-pay structure for civilian federal retirees. It saves \$36 billion.	7.1	6.9	7.4
The bill includes spectrum auctions and other reforms to bring in significant revenues for taxpayers by making more efficient and effective use of the public's airwaves. It saves \$16 billion.	7.0	6.5	7.5
The bill extends the current lower payroll tax rate for employees, which was reduced from 6.2 percent of wages to 4.2 percent, for one year.	7.0	5.6	8.3
The bill extends certain Medicare payment policies, including a two-year "doc fix" to protect Medicare physicians from large reimbursement cuts scheduled to take place next year.	6.8	5.8	7.7
The bill provides a one-year extension of the temporary payroll tax relief enacted in 2010.	6.7	5.9	7.5
The bill forces greater repayment of improper taxpayer-funded subsidies in ObamaCare to reduce waste, fraud and abuse in the Democrats' health care law. It reduces the deficit by \$13.4 billion.	6.6	5.8	7.4
The bill extends the \$16.5 billion TANF block grant at its current funding levels through FY 2012.	6.5	6.1	6.9
The bill permanently reforms the federal unemployment insurance program, and extends benefits to those who are struggling in President Obama's economy.	6.5	5.5	7.4

The bill reforms the National Flood Insurance Program by eliminating the premium subsidy for certain properties. It saves \$4 billion.	6.1	5.1	7.1
The measure permanently reforms unemployment insurance to reduce waste, cut costs, and increase state flexibility.	6.0	5.5	6.5
The measure includes spectrum auctions to advance wireless broadband service, bring interoperable broadband communications to public safety officials, spur billions in private investment, and create thousands of jobs.	6.0	4.7	7.4
The bill accelerates a decision on the Keystone XL energy pipeline, requiring, within 60 days, for the permit to be granted unless the President determines the project is not in the national interest.	5.5	5.1	6.0
Recognizing that unemployment services should focus on helping Americans get back to work, the bill uses a two-step process to gradually reduce current maximum weeks of benefits from 99 to 59 weeks.	5.3	4.9	5.6
The bill repeals \$8 billion in ObamaCare mandatory funding from the unaccountable “prevention and public health fund,” which the House voted to defund earlier this year.	4.6	4.0	5.2