Public Opinion on Disabilities

September 19, 2012
This presentation is based on a survey conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research.

The survey of 1000 likely 2012 voters (1000 weighted) nationwide was conducted from September 8-12, 2012.

Unless otherwise noted, margin of error= +/-3.1 percentage points at 95% confidence.
Key Findings

• Significant portion of the population knows someone with a disability.

• Split on whether the government is doing enough.

• Can be a voting issue – significant response to Congressional candidates who support programs for those with disabilities.

• Democrats, women more supportive of an agenda that benefits disabled.
More than half know someone with a disability

Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?

- Yes: 51
- No: 48

Yes, know someone with a disability
No, do not know someone with a disability
Party identification: more Dems, independents report knowing someone with a disability

Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?

Democrats: 52% Yes, 48% No
Independents: 58% Yes, 42% No
Republicans: 44% Yes, 56% No
Disabilities as a government priority
Even split on whether government doing enough for those with disabilities, but few strong feelings

Thinking about the current policies and programs the US government has to help people with disabilities, how much is the government doing to help those with disabilities lead a normal life? Is the government doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help those with disabilities lead a normal life?

- Not doing enough: 13
- Doing more than enough: +2
- Not doing anywhere near enough: 10
- Don't know: 10

Total: 44, 46, 10
Clear split by party identification on government policies, but very little intensity on either side

Thinking about the current policies and programs the US government has to help people with disabilities, how much is the government doing to help those with disabilities lead a normal life? Is the government doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help those with disabilities lead a normal life?

- **Democrats**
  - Not doing enough: 10
  - Doing enough: 54
  - Doing more than enough: 41
  - Not doing anywhere near enough: 5
  - Net: +13

- **Republicans**
  - Not doing enough: 33
  - Doing enough: 54
  - Doing more than enough: 15
  - Not doing anywhere near enough: 18
  - Net: +21

- **Independents**
  - Not doing enough: 39
  - Doing enough: 50
  - Doing more than enough: 14
  - Not doing anywhere near enough: 11
  - Net: +11
Also apparent in vote intention

Thinking about the current policies and programs the US government has to help people with disabilities, how much is the government doing to help those with disabilities lead a normal life? Is the government doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help those with disabilities lead a normal life?

**Voting for Congressional Democrat in 2012**

- Not doing enough: 13
- Doing enough: 5
- Not doing anywhere near enough: 54
- Doing more than enough: 39

**Voting for Congressional Republican in 2012**

- Not doing enough: 34
- Doing enough: 13
- Not doing anywhere near enough: 17
- Doing more than enough: 55

+15 for Democrats, +21 for Republicans.
Knowing someone with a disability increases belief the government should do more, but only draws to even thinking about the current policies and programs the US government has to help people with disabilities, how much is the government doing to help those with disabilities lead a normal life? Is the government doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help those with disabilities lead a normal life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Know someone with a disability</th>
<th>Don’t know someone with a disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not doing enough</td>
<td>Doing enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>51</td>
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+1

+11
Thinking about the current policies and programs the US government has to help people with disabilities, how much is the government doing to help those with disabilities lead a normal life? Is the government doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help those with disabilities lead a normal life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not doing enough</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing enough</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+8</td>
<td>+14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not doing anywhere near enough</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women want government to do more
Raising disabilities as voting issue
No downside for candidates to support policies for those with disabilities

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who is committed to making policies and programs to help those with disabilities a national priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

- Much more likely: 41
- Much less likely: 2
- No difference: 55

Net: +41
Most likely to be a voting issue for Democrats

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who is committed to making policies and programs to help those with disabilities a national priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

Democrats

- More likely: 52
- Less likely: 1
- Much more likely: +51
- Much less likely: 0
- No difference: 45 percent

Republicans

- More likely: 27
- Less likely: 8
- Much more likely: +22
- Much less likely: 5
- No difference: 66 percent

Independents

- More likely: 41
- Less likely: 1
- Much more likely: +30
- Much less likely: 11
- No difference: 57 percent
Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who is committed to making policies and programs to help those with disabilities a national priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

**Voting for Congressional Democrat in 2012**
- More likely: 55
- Less likely: 29
- No difference: 42 percent

**Voting for Congressional Republican in 2012**
- More likely: 29
- Less likely: 7
- No difference: 65 percent

- Much more likely
- Much less likely

**Net Margin:**
- For Democrats: +54
- For Republicans: +26
Knowing someone with a disability makes support more likely

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who is committed to making policies and programs to help those with disabilities a national priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

**Know someone with a disability**

- **Much more likely**
  - +47
- **No difference:** 49 percent

**Don’t know someone with a disability**

- **Much less likely**
  - +30
- **No difference:** 61 percent

**Results:**

- **More likely**
  - Know someone with a disability: 48
  - Don’t know someone with a disability: 33
- **Less likely**
  - Know someone with a disability: 23
  - Don’t know someone with a disability: 9
And women more supportive as well

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who is committed to making policies and programs to help those with disabilities a national priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

**Women**

- More likely: 45
- Less likely: 18
- Much more likely: +43
- Much less likely: -2
- No difference: 51 percent

**Men**

- More likely: 36
- Less likely: 13
- Much more likely: +33
- Much less likely: -3
- No difference: 59 percent