

## America on July 4<sup>th</sup> – a country divided

*Survey reveals more than half think nation is on the wrong track*

**July 4, 2014** – As Americans gather at backyard barbecues and block parties to celebrate their nation's birthday, they do so largely as citizens divided along political and demographic lines.

Those are some of the results of an Angus Reid Global (ARG) online survey asking American adults how they feel about their country, and its institutions.

More than half – 62 per cent say they think the US is on the wrong track. This sentiment is more pronounced among older Americans (67% who are older than 55 years) than among young Americans (55% aged 18 – 34).

Just 15 per cent of American adults surveyed say they believe the country is on the right track and are optimistic about its future. Of these respondents, 26 per cent voted for US President Barack Obama in the 2012 election, while 6 per cent voted for Mitt Romney.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

Angus Reid Global (ARG) conducted an online survey among 1502 and randomly selected American adults who are Springboard America panelists on June 20 - 22. A probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

This survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARG.

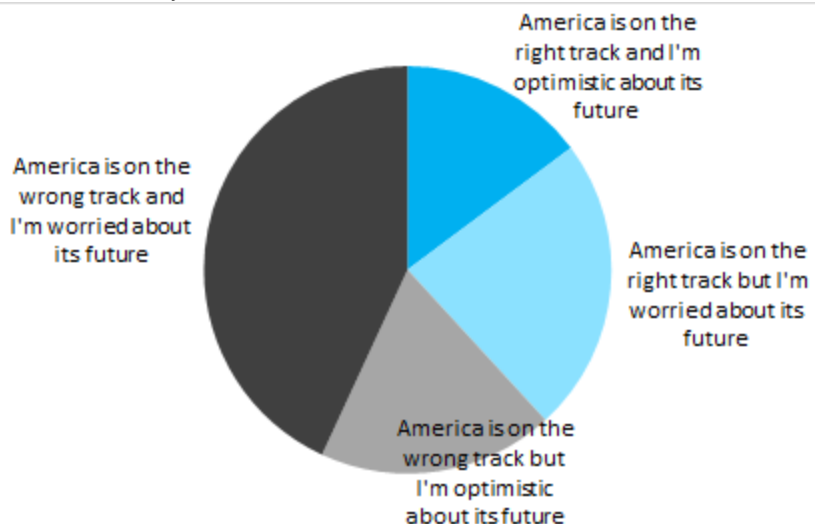
Detailed charts, tables and regional results are found at the end of this release.

### **What is America doing well?**

Asked to rank the US in several areas, respondents rated their country's democratic freedoms highest. Just under half (45%) said these freedoms were either "world class" or "above average". Less than one-third (30%) said the same about Americans' quality of life. When it comes to quality of government, fewer than one-fifth (17%) ranked this as either "world class" or "above average".

### **Institutions:**

Respondents were also asked how they view US institutions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were most favorably ranked: 78 per cent of respondents offering a favorable impression, followed closely by NASA at 77 per cent, and the Defense Department at 66 per cent. Perceptions of these institutions were least divided between past-Obama and past-Romney voters. The same cannot be said about other government institutions and departments listed in the tables on the following pages.



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Detailed tables are on the following pages.

We'd like to get your opinion about the US as a country and its institutions. First, which statement best describes your view?						
	Total	Age			Vote Last	
		18-34	35-54	55+	Obama	Romney
America is on the <u>right track</u> today and I'm <u>optimistic</u> about its future	15%	20%	13%	12%	26%	6%
America is on the <u>right track</u> today but I'm <u>worried</u> about its future	23%	25%	24%	21%	39%	9%
America is on the <u>wrong track</u> today but I'm <u>optimistic</u> about its future	19%	22%	18%	17%	15%	21%
America is on the <u>wrong track</u> today and I'm <u>worried</u> about its future	43%	33%	45%	50%	19%	64%

How much impact would you say the federal government has on your own day-to-day life?								
	Total	Region					Obama	Romney
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West			
A major impact	31%	31%	28%	36%	26%	26%	38%	
A fair amount of impact	48%	50%	52%	45%	48%	51%	48%	
Not much impact	17%	13%	17%	15%	22%	20%	10%	
No real impact	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	

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Which statement best describes your opinion about the overall size of the federal government of the USA?							
	Total	Region				Vote Last	
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West	Obama	Romney
We should work to reduce the size of the federal government and its programs, to cut taxes and the public debt	63%	56%	64%	63%	65%	45%	84%
Maintain the federal government more or less as it is	20%	21%	17%	21%	20%	27%	10%
We should be willing to expand the federal government and its programs to address the important issues facing the country	18%	23%	19%	16%	15%	28%	6%

Please indicate how you think the US rates in each of the following areas: World Class + Above Average							
	Total	Region				Vote Last	
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West	Obama	Romney
The democratic freedoms here	45%	51%	43%	44%	44%	52%	45%
The quality of life most citizens have	30%	34%	31%	27%	31%	32%	36%
Quality of healthcare	26%	28%	26%	27%	24%	25%	33%
The safety of our cities	21%	28%	20%	20%	19%	26%	21%
Social Services available	31%	38%	27%	30%	30%	28%	40%
Degree of social harmony	20%	24%	17%	18%	20%	24%	19%
Quality of public education	20%	27%	19%	17%	19%	22%	21%
Economic opportunities for young people	20%	19%	21%	21%	18%	21%	22%
Quality of government	17%	21%	15%	16%	18%	25%	11%

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Do you have an overall favorable or unfavorable view of the following organizations or institutions:							
Favorable							
	Total	Region				Vote Last	
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West	Obama	Romney
Center for Disease Control (CDC)	78%	78%	84%	78%	74%	81%	78%
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	77%	75%	77%	80%	74%	81%	75%
Defense Department	65%	69%	61%	68%	62%	66%	69%
US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	63%	64%	64%	63%	62%	67%	60%
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	61%	62%	61%	60%	61%	73%	48%
Homeland Security	57%	59%	57%	57%	55%	64%	50%
Federal Reserve	56%	58%	58%	56%	53%	67%	48%
Health and Human Services	55%	60%	58%	53%	54%	69%	43%
Federal workers	54%	56%	54%	55%	52%	67%	42%
National Security Agency (NSA)	51%	56%	46%	52%	49%	56%	45%
Justice Department	51%	54%	52%	49%	51%	63%	40%
Department of Education	50%	55%	52%	49%	47%	60%	39%
Veterans Administration	44%	46%	42%	43%	47%	50%	38%
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)	37%	40%	35%	35%	37%	47%	24%
Congress	25%	25%	22%	25%	27%	29%	20%
Senate	29%	33%	23%	30%	29%	39%	18%

*Angus Reid Global* is headed by Dr. Angus Reid, Canada's best known and longest practicing pollster. He's spent more than four decades asking questions about what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. He is supported by a team of practitioners conducting high quality research for corporations, governments and non-profit organizations.

Visit the website: <http://www.angusreidglobal.com>

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