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Not Just Another Tea Party

Nicole Kramer

Sponsored by Brian Krueger, Ph.D.

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Some trends are fleeting. Other trends, whether cars, hairstyles, or even political factions and ideas, leave lasting impacts on our society. Every once in a while, a new trend leaves long lasting impacts, reaching well beyond what was originally imagined. The Tea Party, which rose up only a few years ago, is one of these new trends that was made popular by the media, and is starting to create changes and exert its influence. However, just what is this Tea Party? Where does it lie on social issues, or economic issues? Why did this movement start? These are just some of the thoughts that first crossed my mind when I decided to start this project to understand the Tea Party. Through my research I want to answer a few fundamental questions about the Tea Party, which would help to determine its future, and impact on society: Who are the members of the Tea Party, will the Tea Party sustain, and finally will the Tea Party leave an impact?

To begin, I needed to determine the nature of the Tea Party. Upon examination I found this movement to be a political faction. A faction is "Any combination, clique, or grouping of voters and political leaders who unite at a particular time in support of a candidate" or cause.[1] Faction members share a common identity and purpose so they organize to campaign for this purpose.[2] Factions are said to exist when party members become aware of certain fundamental differences that divide them from other members of the party.[3] The faction members are also aware of these shared characteristics, interests, and aspirations, which encourages them to engage in a collective effort to overcome resistance within the party to promote these interests.[4] Factions lack clear and orderly procedures, and yet they can appear sporadically with different procedures depending on where it is located.[5] Factions are perceived as intraparty and normally not viewed as a new party in the making, but still considered part of the party itself.[6] The organization of

a faction within the heart of the party may well be viewed as a precursory step towards a split in the party and the formation of a new one.[7] Factions are conflict groups and it is the reason for their existence.[8] The Founding Fathers did not like the idea of factions, or at least wanted to create barriers against any one faction dominating for their own selfish ends.[9] Factions, while they are normally short lived, need to exist for a certain minimum time span.[10] They are usually active at least for one election campaign or the life of an important bill, however factions normally exceed that time span.[11] According to these definitions, I believe the Tea Party is definitely a faction, and because its members tend to be more conservative than most people, even other Republicans, the Tea Party can be labeled as a right wing faction.

Since the Tea Party is a new developing faction there have not been many scholarly articles and examinations done on this movement. Therefore a lot of the background research I did for this project came from the media. To begin I determined that the Tea Party is a right wing faction of the Republican Party. However, in a recent analysis it was found that Tea Partiers are fairly mainstream when considering certain demographic characteristics. The survey was conducted by phone interviews from March 26-28, 2010 with 1,033 adults with a 95% confidence that the sampling error is + or – 4 percentage points. Out of those surveyed, 28% of Americans identified themselves as supporters of the Tea Party, and for the main part they did not differ dramatically from the demographics of most Americans. However, the poll did show that out of those surveyed, the supporters of the Tea Party were particularly more conservative, they tended to be white, and they were also of higher incomes (Refer to page 32, Table 1). Forty percent of all US adults identify themselves as conservatives whereas 70% of Tea

Party supporters indicated they had conservative leanings. Fifty five percent of Tea Partiers were identified as males, compared to 49% of US adults. Lastly, 55% of Tea Party supporters stated they made above $50,000 in income versus 50% of US adults who declared that they had an income larger than $50,000. However, the rest of the results seemed to align with the majority of US adults. Like the majority of US adults, Tea Partiers identified themselves as white, between the ages of 30 to 64, and employed full time. This poll indicates that Tea Partiers are not radically different in demographics, except that they are more conservative in their ideologies and they are wealthier than the average American. [12]

Yet, in a poll conducted by the New York Times, it was found that Tea Party supporters are wealthier, more educated, and whiter than the general public. This nationwide telephone survey was conducted April 5-12, 2010 with 1,580 adults surveyed and a sampling error of + or – 3 percentage points (Refer to page 32, Table 2). In the survey it was found that 20% of all Tea Partiers made over $100,000 in income compared to 14% of all respondents who reported that they made over $100,000 annually. When analyzing education, Tea Partiers generally appeared to be more educated than the rest of the general public. While 15% of the general public stated they had a college education, 23% of Tea Party supporters indicated they were a college graduate. Looking at it even more closely, Tea Partiers were four percentage points more likely to hold a postgraduate degree than the general public. Seventy-seven percent of all respondents reported they were white, whereas 89% of all Tea Partiers identified themselves as white, which is 12 percentage points higher than the general population. Like the Gallup poll, the New York Times also found Tea Party supporters to be very conservative, employed, white, and

mostly males. This poll by the New York Times helps to reveal more information about the Tea Party and adds to our understanding beyond the Gallup poll. The supporters of the Tea Party are a branch of the Republican Party, yet they are unique in several respects. While Tea Partiers are classified as being fairly conventional, they seem to be overly represented by white members, which may relate their anger towards our new African American President. By being more educated and wealthier than the majority of the population, the Tea Party would be expected to be highly concerned with economic issues. Also, by having a higher educational degree the members should be able to keep the movement alive for a long period of time while continuing to gain support, or at least attention, for their issues.[13]

However, when looking at some of the reports done on the Tea Party, including their gatherings, events, and what their supporters have to say, it appears that there is consistently a lack of cohesion among the members and the different Tea Party groups spread around the nation. In an article by the New York Times, the Tea Party is categorized by the inconsistency that appears to exist, "The ebbs and flows of the Tea Party ferment are hardly uniform. It is an amorphous, factionalized uprising with no clear leadership and no centralized structure. Not everyone flocking to the Tea Party movement is worried about dictatorship. Some have a basic aversion to big government, or Mr. Obama, or progressives in general. What's more, some Tea Party groups are essentially appendages of the local Republican Party". The Tea Party is often described as a grass-roots movement with hundreds of independent Tea Party groups that each have their own priorities, but overall tend to believe in the same ideas. The Tea Party is not centralized, and is unstructured. It is currently lacking clear leadership, a set of uniform

policies, and a nationwide network. All of the local and autonomous Tea Party groups, while sharing similar ideas and beliefs, have not united thus far to make their ideas even stronger and more cohesive. At Tea Party gatherings it is often heard that people would like to eliminate the Federal Reserve, the income tax, several agencies, and the bailout and stimulus packages. Most of the Tea Partiers would classify themselves as strict Constitutionalists, who believe the government is overreaching, and feels the nation should return to following the letter of the Constitution explicitly. [14]

Members of the Tea Party appear to be newly energized people that are upset because of the recession, the emergence of an African American Democratic President, and a government, which they feel is aimed at helping the poor over the rich and middle class.[15] Tea Party members are considered to be conservative in their ideologies, so why are they not just members of the Republican Party? There is a common trend among Tea Party members of being awakened by the recession. Most members claim to have felt some sort of impact from the recession, whether directly on their families, or indirectly through their friends. There is also a suspicion between these members of the government and the direction that the country is heading, with which they do not agree. [16] As noted previously in the polls concerning the demographics of Tea Party members, these individuals tend to be more conservative than most Republicans and their major focus is on the economy, the budget, and government spending. These newly engaged individuals concentrate mainly on changing these economic issues, and they do not often concern themselves with the other issues the Republican Party focuses on. Recently, one of the biggest driving forces behind the Tea Party is the desire to phase out the health care bill including items such as Medicare and Medicaid.[17] This in particular has been an

attracting force for many new coming Tea Partiers. The Tea Party also differs from the Republican Party and is closer to patriot groups, who believe strongly in the Constitution and its strict adherence.[18] In the media the Tea Party has been branded as a libertarian group, or a group that upholds individual and civil liberties. However, some of this group's anger towards President Obama could be related to a trend of Tea Partiers to have a higher white representation, and while they may be categorized as libertarian, this may just be a media brand. The Tea Party has no formal group, but there have been major organizations backing the Tea Party and helping to create its foundation. Some of these groups are FreedomWorks, Friends for Liberty, and Oath Keepers.[19] Therefore, Tea Partiers are extreme on the right end of the political spectrum, and can be considered a faction of the Republican Party because of their overall ideologies, but these members are much more focused on certain issues than typical Republicans.

Tea Party members also differ from typical Republican Party members because of their attitudes and their unwillingness to cooperate with people outside of their own party and beliefs. In the New York Times, Tea Party supporters were qualified as "angry", rather than just "dissatisfied" with the government.[20] This is different than other Republicans and previous factions. The differences between the Tea Party and the Republican Party indicate that it will be difficult for Tea Party members to be adjusted and co-opted into the Republican Party. Tea Partiers have even vowed to oust Republican leaders who do not strictly adhere to their program.[21] Several examples of these candidates are: Mark Kirk, a candidate from Illinois running for Senate who supported global warming legislation; Governor Charlie Crist of Florida who was looking to advance to the Senate and was in favor of the stimulus spending; and Meg Whitman

running for Governor in California for supporting one of Obama's advocates.[22] This goal of the Tea Partiers to clean out the Republican Party of those they feel are not conservative enough, shows their anger towards not only liberal/moderate Republicans but also the government, whom they feel is leading the nation in the wrong direction.[23] This separates them from the rest of the Republican Party and gives this movement yet another distinction. Unlike both the Republican and Democratic Party who realize the necessity of compromise and cohesion, the Tea Party supporters appear to believe their strategies are the unqualified correct ones, and if anyone supports policies outside their agenda, then they need to be removed from power. This can be a dangerous concept and explains why there is not complete unity between the Republican Party, and this right wing faction, the Tea Party.

While the Tea Party appears to be disunited, some feel that with the right leadership all of these autonomous groups can be united, and become more of a political force. Some members have placed their faith in Sarah Palin and believe that she can be the moving force the Tea Party needs to help nationalize it.[24] The Tea Party movement has been underestimated in the past and for many has shown to be more of a political threat than originally anticipated. This movement began to transform into a real political threat during the 2010 Midterm Election season including the primaries.[25] In the Senate elections the Tea Party helped to carry Rand Paul from Kentucky and Marco Rubio from Florida into Senate seats.[26] However, because of the extremity of the Tea Party, there were also several seats that Republicans lost to Democrats.[27] The most notable one was Harry Reid, the Democratic Senate Leader who was considered to be a weaker candidate, who won over Sharron Angle, a Tea Party favorite because of her extreme views and

sometime eccentric statements.[28] While some of these candidates who won seats consider themselves to be members of the Tea Party, they ran under the Republican Party, replacing the Republican candidates in their campaigns.[29] This can be seen through the policies the Republican Party have begun to establish, which includes considerations for the 2012 Presidential campaigns.[30] Already Tea Party members have placed their hope in nominating candidates favorable to the Tea Party, such as Sarah Palin, for the Republican Party candidate for the Presidential Election.[31] The Tea Party is a faction of the Republican Party, and while the Tea Party may not be able to break off from being anything more than a faction, they can still exert more influence on the political actions and ideas of the Republican Party, helping to shape their agendas and leaders.

While I was able to gain information about the Tea Party, their issues, beliefs, and also their demographics, I felt that it was necessary to gain some statistical information to back up what I had found during my research, which would help me to make an informed predication about the future of the Tea Party. One way to determine the impact the Tea Party will have upon the Republican Party and to determine how long the Tea Party may exist is to use data gathered from surveys from hundreds of respondents conducted over the course of several years. The American National Election Survey, ANES, conducted surveys from 2008- 2010 analyzing information on a wide range of political issues, including issues involving the Tea Party. Based on these surveys, I then developed some hypotheses that would help me structure my research. These survey questions revolved around how the respondents felt about the Tea Party, concerns and beliefs of Tea Party supporters versus non- Tea Party supporters, and also the demographics of the respondents in favor of the Tea Party versus non- Tea Party supporters. To gain this

information I used questions gathered from a Pre-Election Survey for both the 2008-2009 survey and the 2010 survey, by ANES. Once I gathered the questions and variables needed to help me evaluate my hypotheses, I then used SPSS statistics to create feeling thermometers that would provide percentages and frequencies to my answers and test how certain groups of respondents felt about this movement. Once I found the questions I was looking for in these ANES question workbooks, I found each question's corresponding variable. All questions in the 2008-2009 ANES survey had variables beginning in "w", whereas all questions in the 2010 ANES survey had variables beginning in "f". Before I began my research using SPSS, I had to recode my variables that I desired to use, removing all answers where the respondents did not respond to the question, so I could get accurate percentages in my statistics and ignore the inconsequential answers.

To begin my research I first found the questions and the corresponding variables to several issues that I knew would be relevant to test the hypotheses and would provide some answers regarding the concerns of the Tea Party and the possible durability of the Tea Party. Some of the more fundamental questions I found were: does the respondent, R, like the Tea Party, variable f1g11; R total household income, variable f1g10; R interest in information about government and politics, variable w1k1; R favor or oppose constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages, variable w1p1; R agree or disagree with the statement: other minorities overcame prejudice so should blacks, variable f1v1; R favor or oppose raising taxes on incomes over 200 k/yr, variable w1p4; R favor or oppose raising taxes on incomes under 200 k/yr, variable w1p7; R favor or oppose government payment for all health care, variable w1p13; and R favor or oppose the health care bill,

variable f1ze1. When I first recoded these variables, it produced statistics on how all of the respondents answered each of these individual questions. When I first looked at the results on whether the respondents like the Tea Party, I found the results to be fairly reasonable and expected. 27.6% of the respondents like the Tea Party, 32.7% dislike the Tea Party, and 39.8% were indifferent to the Tea Party (Refer to page 32, Table 3). This can be understood by looking at the dynamics of America's political system. The percentage of those who like the Tea Party are on the more conservative end of the political spectrum, whereas those who dislike the Tea Party are on the more liberal end of the political spectrum, and those indifferent to the Tea Party are in the middle of the spectrum and therefore do not feel any strong connection for or against this movement. Next, when I examined the respondent's household income I focused on analyzing just the wealthiest bracket of respondents, since those were the individuals who tended to back the Tea Party according to my previous research. Therefore, when I broke down these income groups I focused on the income brackets ranging from 100 k/yr to 125 k/yr, 125 k/yr to 150 k/yr, 150 k/yr to 175 k/yr, and then 175 k/yr and upwards. Evaluating all the respondents there was not a large percentage that fell within these income brackets, however there were enough frequencies, or answers to each question, to analyze these brackets and to later compare to those that were also supporters of the Tea Party. Of the respondents, the largest percentage fell within the 100 k/yr to 125 k/yr with 34.8% and continued to decrease as the income brackets increased except for a slight spike in the 175 k/yr and upwards income. However, the total amount of respondents within the 100 k/yr to 175 k/yr income brackets is quite small compared to the amount of respondents in the survey, which are 385 out of 4240 respondents. This small number should be

expected considering that only a small minority of individuals make over 100 k/yr in income.

When looking at the other information I gathered, the two questions that I was uncertain on how the majority of the respondents would answer, were the respondents interest in information about the government and politics and whether the respondent favors or opposes an amendment to ban gay marriages. Upon examining the first question I found a fairly large percentage of respondents were interested and knowledgeable about government and politics. 22.6% of respondents said they were extremely interested, 32.4% were very interested, and 31.1% were moderately interested in government and politics. This is a fairly large percentage that is interested, and typically the type of people more interested in politics are the individuals who are more knowledgeable and understand the political occurrences and movements of their time, which in this scenario represents the Tea Party movement. When I turned my attention to the question of gay marriages, I found that a 45.2% plurality of all respondents would oppose an amendment to ban gay marriages, 30.7% would favor an amendment, and 24.1% are indifferent. This is also a fairly large percentage that opposes a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages. While this does not mean that all of those opposing an amendment are in support of gay marriages, it does mean they care enough to not want that right to be taken away permanently from gay couples. After looking at the question of gay marriages I then looked at a question asking if the respondent agreed or disagreed with the statement, “other minorities overcame prejudice so should blacks”, to try and determine if there was any symbolic racism present among the respondents and then later Tea Partiers. The results showed that most respondents felt that blacks should be able to

overcome prejudice, with 29.8% agreeing strongly, 26.1% agreeing somewhat, and 22.9% neither agreeing or disagreeing. This shows a large percentage that might feel some prejudice towards blacks and that they might not be helping themselves enough.

The next two questions that I looked at among the broad range of respondents was whether the respondent favored or opposed raising taxes on incomes over 200 k/yr and then on incomes under 200 k/yr. These results were what one would typically expect, with a majority favoring a tax increase on those earning over 200 k/yr and would oppose a tax increase on those earning less than 200 k/yr. In the first question 55.4 % of the respondents favored a tax increase on individuals with an income over 200 k/yr, while 22.4 % opposed an increase. In the second question 79.1% of respondents opposed a tax increase on those with an income less than 200 k/yr, while only 7.1% favored a tax increase. Again these results were very typical of what one would expect the majority of respondents to answer. While only slightly more than a majority of the population may favor increasing taxes on the wealthier, a huge majority of the population is opposed to increasing taxes on those they view as the less well off. The last two questions that I looked at regarded how respondents felt about health care policies. To begin, I looked at whether the respondent favor or opposed government payment for all health care and found that 41.7% of respondents favored government payment for all health care, while 36.3% opposed, and 22.0% were indifferent. This is a fairly large percentage of respondents who feel that the government should cover all health care costs, which would impose a large chunk of the government's budget. In the last question asked in 2010, whether the respondent favors or oppose the health care bill, 50.3% favored the bill, while 32.9% opposed the bill and 16.8% were indifferent. Again a majority of

respondents were in favor of the health care bill, which seemed to show that most respondents favored the government paying for a large majority, if not all the costs, of health care for individuals.

After I gathered all of this information, I decided that I needed to break down this information even further to examine how it related to Tea Party supporters in particular, compared to the rest of the respondents. In order to do this I needed to perform cross tabulations between two variables using the recoded variables from ANES in the SPSS statistical analysis program. One of the first cross tabulations I performed was between variables f1g11 and f1zj10. F1g11 is the question on whether the respondent likes or dislikes the Tea Party, and f1zj10 asks about the respondent's total household income ranging from 100 k/ yr to 175 k/yr and broken down in the brackets described above. As stated above, out of the 4240 respondents in the survey, only 385 respondents fit within these income brackets, which does not amount for a huge frequency. When broken down, it was found that those that like the Tea Party appeared to be very similar in income compared to all respondents (Refer to page 33, Tables 4 and 5). For the 100 k/yr to 125 k/yr, those who like the Tea Party constituted 28.2% of the respondents with an income in this range, while 34.8% of all respondents stated they were in this income bracket. In the 125 k/yr to 150 k/yr Tea Party supporters with this income were 30.8% and 25.5% of all respondents, so the role here seems to be reversed, with more Tea Partiers have a higher income than the rest of the respondents. This trend continued in 150 k/yr to 175 k/yr with Tea Party supporters constituting 23.1% of this bracket and all respondents constituting 18.2% stating they fit in this income bracket. This again shows support for Tea Partiers to be wealthier than the majority of respondents. However, in

the last income bracket 175 k/yr and more, those who like the Tea Party only made up 17.9% of the respondents, while 21.6% of all respondents were in this income bracket. This shows a slight hiccup in the trend, with Tea Party supporters being wealthier than the majority of the respondents. However, I believe there is something to be noted for the large percentages and frequencies that Tea Party supporters held in this overall 100 k/yr to 175 k/yr and more bracket. The Tea Party had just begun to make its presence well known when this survey was taken, and for its new beginnings the supporters appear to be very wealthy. Only a small frequency of respondents fit in these income brackets, yet Tea Party supporters held a large percentage of the respondents. This shows that even at its conception, Tea Party members were wealthy. More can be deduced when this information is combined with what was previously discovered about the Tea Party from the New York Times poll. From the information in the polls, which was more recently conducted in 2010, it was found that Tea Party members are wealthier than the average population by about 6 percentage points. When all of this information is combined, it begins to make more sense. While the information gathered in the ANES survey showed that Tea Party supporters were wealthy, it did not show them to be wealthier or less wealthy than the rest of the population, but about on the same level. However, that survey was only conducted among a couple hundred respondents, while the New York Times poll was conducted among over a thousand respondents. While the New York Times poll showed Tea Partiers to be wealthier, it was not so much wealthier than the ANES study to make the results unbelievable, when a larger amount of respondents are taking into the survey. When looking at the polls conducted more recently in 2010, the Tea Party members do appear to be wealthier, which could be attributed to the gaining

popularity of the movement, and also the attraction that Tea Party ideals have to the wealthier class of United States citizens and their increased following of this movement.

After I had established that the supporters of the Tea Party were among the wealthier class, I decided to look at support from the Tea Party by Republican Party supporters, to determine the viability of Tea Party to co-opt with the Republican Party. To do this I did a cross tabulation between variables f1g5 and f1g11. F1g5 is whether the respondent likes or dislikes the Republican Party, where f1g11 asks the same thing about the Tea Party. What the results showed was that 56.8% of those that like the Republican Party also like the Tea Party, whereas 64.9% of those that dislike the Republican Party also dislike the Tea Party (Refer to page 33, Table 6). These results help to show that the Tea Party will not be adopted easily into the Republican Party. Since the Tea Party is seen as a faction of the Republican Party, some may view the results as surprising that more Republicans are not supporters of the Tea Party. However, this is expected and fits into my theory that the Tea Party will not easily be absorbed. While more than a majority of Republican supporters are also supporters of the Tea Party, it is not an overwhelming majority. However, this can be explained because the Tea Party is extreme and has different desires than mainstream Republicans. What was expected from the results was, that if one dislikes the Republican Party, then one would most likely dislike the Tea Party. Because the Tea Party is more extreme than the Republican Party it is logical that if one dislikes the ideals of the Republican Party, then it is almost definite that the more extreme conservative ideals of the Tea Party will also be disliked. The results of this test help to show that while there is majority of support from Republicans for the Tea Party, the Tea Party will not easily be co-opted into the Republican Party.

While the Tea Party may not be easily co-opted into the Republican Party, the results from the ANES survey does show that those interested in the Tea Party are more educated and interested in politics, which will help Tea Party ideals to sustain. For my next cross tabulation I used variables f1g11 and w1k1, where f1g11 asks the respondent whether they like or dislike the Tea Party and w1k1 asks the respondent's interest in information about government and politics. This cross tabulation will help me to predict the viability of the Tea Party and the chance this movement has to sustain itself (Refer to page 34, Tables 7 and 8). As noted above, when I first evaluated w1k1, I found that a large amount of the respondents stated they were extremely interested, very interested, and moderately interested in government and politics. However, according to the results of the cross tabulation, Tea Party supporters appear to be more interested than the average respondent. Of those who support the Tea Party, it appears that 30.3% were extremely interested in government and politics, which compares to the 22.6% of all respondents who stated they were also extremely interested. 34.4% of Tea Party supporters stated they were very interested in government compared to 32.4% of all respondents. However, 29.5% of Tea Party supporters stated they were moderately interested, which is slightly lower than the 31.1% of all the respondents who responded. While the percentage of the Tea Party supporters' responses was slightly lower than the overall respondents in one category, there was a greater percentage in the very interested category and an even larger 8 point percentage increase in the extremely interested category for Tea Party supporters. This shows that Tea Party supporters are much more interested in politics and government than the average person. When this information is combined with that of the New York Times poll, which states that on average Tea

Partiers have a higher degree of education, it gives the Tea Party a lot of viability and reason to believe the Tea Party will sustain and is not likely to be controlled. Tea Party supporters are the elite; they have a higher degree of education and are among the wealthiest of the population. According to John Zaller, a political scientist, he believes that the politically elite are aware, have their ideas formed, and are not likely to be persuaded to change.[32] This corresponds with previous information because it supports the concept that the Tea Party is less likely to be controlled by the Republican Party and will not be easily co-opted holding strong to its ideals.

While the Tea Party has sometimes been described as a libertarian movement, from my research I found that really this movement is not as much libertarian as it is concerned with the strict adherence to the Constitution with very conservative ideals, thus simply branded as a libertarian group. One way to evaluate this was to compare some of the social issues in the media today, and determine the feelings of Tea Party supporters towards these issues. To start I cross tabulated variable f1g11 by variable w1p1, where f1g11 is whether the respondents likes or dislikes the Tea Party and w1p1 asks the respondent whether they favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages (Refer to page 35, Tables 9, 10, and 11). As noted previously, an overwhelming 45.2% majority of respondents opposed an amendment banning gay marriages, compared to 30.7% in favor of an amendment. If the Tea Party movement had a more libertarian trend, one would expect there to be a majority opposing the amendment and promoting forward social equality. However, the results showed overwhelmingly that those who like the Tea Party favor an amendment to ban gay marriages with 48.6%, while those that like the Tea Party and oppose an amendment only

represented 32.5%. After examining how those who support the Tea Party felt about banning gay marriages, I chose to see how Republican supporters felt about such an amendment and how it compared to Tea Partiers. To do this I cross tabulated f1g5, asking whether the respondents likes or dislikes the Republican Party, by w1p1. The results showed that 46.5% of Republican supporters favored an amendment to ban gay marriages and 33.0% of Republican supporters opposed such an amendment, which is comparable to the results from Tea Party supporters and confirms that their ideals are very similar. Compared to all the respondents, the Tea Party's stance appears to be on the conservative side of the spectrum. This is expected from a truly conservative faction that believes strongly in strict adherence to the Constitution, such as the Tea Party, and helps to quash any notions that the Tea Party had a libertarian streak. The results fit well with the rest of the data and the knowledge gained about the Tea Party. Supporters of the Tea Party are strongly in favor of an amendment to ban gay marriages, which stays true to their right wing, conservative ideals and differs greatly from the majority of the population.

From information gathered in the New York Times poll, Tea Party members appear to be whiter than the population on average. I also determined during my research that some of the anger and reason for beginning this movement was directed at the emergence of a new African American Democratic President. To see if this theory has any validity and test if this whiter group holds any resentment, which maybe would not have effected its strength and unity if a white President had been elected, I decided to look at a symbolic racism question in ANES. The question that I chose asked the respondent if they agreed or disagreed with the statement that other minorities overcame

prejudices so should blacks. Most people will never openly admit to harboring any feelings of dislike towards minorities, therefore to ask the respondent if they like or dislike African Americans would be pointless because there would never be a true representation. This question does not outright ask the respondent if they might have any resentment towards blacks, yet it asks the question in a symbolic way where a positive response might indicate some dislike towards this race. The results from all respondents indicate that a plurality of the respondents strongly agreed that blacks should be able to overcome prejudices with 29.8% of all respondents falling in this category (Refer to page 36, Tables 12 and 13). 26.1% of all respondents agreed somewhat that blacks should be able to overcome prejudices and 26.1% of all respondents neither agreed nor disagreed. This would indicate that most respondents do not feel any great sympathy towards blacks and that they should be able to overcome any prejudice. The results of those who like the Tea Party indicate that they feel a much larger resentment towards blacks than the rest of the population. Of those who like the Tea Party, 49.4% strongly agreed that blacks should be able to overcome prejudices, which is nearly 20 percentage points higher than that of all respondents. 29.3% of Tea Party supporters agree somewhat that blacks should be able to overcome prejudices and 13.6% of Tea Party supporters neither agree nor disagree. So while Tea Party supporters agree with this statement more than the rest of the population, the largest difference occurs in the agree strongly category. There is a huge difference between respondents and Tea Party supporters and it would seem to imply that Tea Party supporters feel blacks are not doing as much as they can to overcome any difficulties they might face. It might also indicate some of this movement's anger towards an African American President is correct and the media might be justified

in making that statement. So in fact, this libertarian movement is not as libertarian as it appears to be. Maybe this whiter movement is in fact just branded wrongly in the media as a libertarian group, and is just as conservative in their social and racial issues as in their economic issues.

While the Tea Party remained true to its conservative ideals regarding gay marriages, I was curious to see how this movement would compare to the rest of the population regarding tax increases on those over 200 k/yr and those under 200 k/yr in income. As noted previously, a large majority, 79.1% of the respondents, opposed raising taxes on those with an income under 200 k/yr, while only a select few favored this tax increase 7.1%. To examine how the Tea Party fit into this, I cross tabulated variable f1g11 by w1p7, where f1g11 asks the respondent whether they like or dislike the Tea Party and w1p7 asks the respondent whether they favor or oppose raising taxes on incomes under 200 k/yr. The results showed that the Tea Party fit fairly well with the rest of the population and was in fact slightly more sympathetic to this income bracket (Refer to page 37, Tables 14, 15, and 16). Only 4.5% of those that like the Tea Party favored raising taxes on incomes under 200 k/yr, this is actually slightly less than the percentage from the respondents. 84.4% of Tea Party supporters actually opposed raising taxes on those with an income under 200 k/yr, which is 5 percentage points higher than the rest of the respondents. I then decided to compare the results with Republican supporters, to see how their ideals aligned regarding economic issues. To do this I cross tabulated f1g5, asking the respondent whether they like or dislike the Tea Party, by w1p7. The results were also similar to Tea Party supporters, showing that 85.0% of those that like the Republican Party also oppose raising taxes, whereas 4.7% of those that like the

Republican Party favor raising taxes on incomes under 200 k/yr. This data fits with what is known about conservatives and in particular Tea Partiers. Tea Party members feel that the economy is moving in the wrong direction and have stated that they do not feel that the government should have as big a role in people's lives, which helps to explain why they would oppose tax increases more than the average person.

While conservatives have been known for not favoring tax increases, I was curious to see how Tea Party supporters felt about raising taxes on those with an income over 200 k/yr, since Tea Partiers tend to be on the wealthier end of the spectrum. As noted previously, the results from all respondents showed what typically would be expected; a majority of the population, 55.4%, was in favor of tax increases with those earning over 200 k/yr, while 22.2% opposed tax increases (Refer to page 38, Tables 17, 18, and 19). To test how Tea Party supporters felt I cross tabulated variables f1g11 by w1p4, where w1p4 asks the respondent whether they favor or oppose raising taxes on incomes over 200 k/yr. The results showed great differences between Tea Party supporters and the rest of the population. Only 29.9% of those who like the Tea Party favored raising the taxes on incomes over 200 k/yr. This is an almost 25 point percentage decrease from the rest of the respondents, which is huge. 48.0% of those who like the Tea Party opposed raising taxes on those with an income over 200 k/yr. This is the largest shift representing almost a 26 point percentage increase in the opposition to raise taxes from Tea Partiers to the rest of the respondents. I decided then to compare this against Republicans' stances so I cross tabulated f1g5 by w1p4. The results showed that Republicans were more opposed to tax increases on high income earners than the rest of the respondents, yet not as strongly opposed as Tea Party supporters. 35.8% of

Republican supporters favored raising taxes, while 39.5% of Republican supporters opposed raising taxes on incomes over 200 k/yr. This is also a large difference compared to the rest of the population and confirms that conservatives are much more opposed to tax increases in general than the rest of the population. Tea Partiers appear to hold very similar beliefs as Republican supporters when it comes to issues regarding taxes and how the economy should be handled. Clearly, Tea Party supporters are not in favor of raising taxes, and even more strongly opposed than the average individual, with the largest difference in results in this survey existing between Tea Party supporters and the rest of the respondents. This huge opposition could be related to the Tea Party's strong belief in a small government and less government interference, or it could just represent an even more passionate shift in a conservative ideal to not overly tax rich people.

After I determined how the Tea Party compared to Republicans and the rest of the respondents concerning their stance on taxes and gay marriage, I then began to look at a recently hot topic that has been up for debate, health care. To begin I cross tabulated variables f1g11 by w1p13. F1g11 asks the respondent whether they like or dislike the Tea Party, where variable w1p13 asks the respondent if they favor or oppose government payment for all health care. As noted previously, 41.7% of all respondents favored government payment for all health care, while 36.3% opposed government payment. The results from the cross tabulation showed that only 18.4% of Tea Party supporters favored government payment for all health care, while 62.3% of Tea Party supporters opposed government payment (Refer to page 39, Table 20, 21, and 22). There is a huge difference between Tea Party supporters and the rest of the respondents. The result indicates a 24 point percentage decrease among Tea Party supporters from the rest of the respondents

when asked if they favor government payment for health care, and a 26 point percentage increase among Tea Party supporter from the rest of the population when asked if they oppose government payment for all health care. While this represents a major difference between Tea Partiers and the rest of the respondents it should be expected. Based on the research that I conducted previously, I found that many of the new Tea Party supporters joined this movement because of their dislike for the direction that the government was heading , which in part was related to the health care packages being proposed. I then decided to compare the results of the Tea Party to the Republican Party and examine how those supporters felt. To do this I cross tabulated f1g5 by w1p13, where f1g5 asks the respondent if they like or dislike the Republican Party. Again I found the results comparable to those of the Tea Party supporters, yet not as extreme. 21.5% of those who like the Republican Party indicated they favor government payment for all health care, whereas 58.9% of those who like the Republican Party oppose government payment for all health care. This places the ideals of the Tea Party much closer to that of the Republican Party compared to the general population, and also shows that Republicans are not as extreme in their beliefs.

After knowing how Tea Partiers felt about the government covering all health care costs in relation to all respondents and the Republican Party, I then decided to examine how Tea Partiers felt about the health care bill by looking at the 2010 survey to see if any attitudes had changed from the survey conducted in 2008-2009. To do this I cross tabulated f1g11 by f1ze1, where f1ze1 asks the respondent if they favor or oppose the health care bill. This is referring to the health care bill enacted in 2010, passed by Congress and President Obama. As noted previously, 50.3% of all respondents favor the

bill, while 32.9% oppose the bill (Refer to page 40, Tables 23, 24, and 25). The results from the cross tabulation were quite extreme and showed that only 16.6% of those who like the Tea Party favor the health care bill, while 72.4% of those who like the Tea Party oppose the bill. This is close to a 36 point percentage decrease among Tea Party supporters favoring the health care bill compared to all respondents and a 40 point percentage increase among Tea Party supporters opposing the bill compared to all respondents. This is the largest difference in opinions between Tea Partiers and the rest of the respondents that I have yet to find. Because of the extreme results I wanted to see how Republican Party supporters felt about this issue. I cross tabulated f1g5 by f1ze1 and found a large difference between Republican Party supporters and the general respondent, yet not quite as extreme as Tea Party supporters. The results showed that 21.2% of those who like the Republican Party favor the health care bill, while 62.4% oppose the health care bill. This again indicates a huge difference. While not as extreme as Tea Party supporters, it shows where the conservative side of the spectrum lies on this issue.

While Tea Party members are more extreme in their conservative beliefs than the average individual, they appear to be even more so than the typical Republican. Although I expected Tea Party members to strongly oppose the health care bill and government payment of all health care, I did not expect there to be such a strong opposition as this survey showed. I believed the issue that would show the most extreme results and truly set the Tea Party apart from the rest of the population would be issues concerning the economy, and most obviously the questions concerning the increases on taxes. Although Tea Partiers appear very opposed to an amendment favoring gay marriage, this social issue did not seem to raise as much opposition as those questions

regarding taxes or health care. This indicates that while the Tea Party will remain true to its conservative ideals and belief in strict adherence to the Constitution, they will not above all else try to change the social and moral issues that are prevalent in America at this time. The results from the ANES surveys help to show that while the economy may have been the driving force behind the emergence of the Tea Party, other issues have appeared along the way that clearly are becoming just as important to Tea Party followers. This supports the information that was gathered previously, showing that one of the new uniting forces behind the Tea Party is this drive to eliminate, or at least limit, the health care bill and to reduce the role that the government plays.

One of the last issues that I chose to examine using the ANES surveys, was to look at the Tea Party and see what they considered the most important issues in America at the time. To do this I performed a cross tabulation between variables f1g11 and f1k1. F1g11 is the question about whether the respondent likes or dislikes the Tea Party, whereas f1k1 asks respondents about the most important problem facing the United States (Refer to page 41, Table 26). Upon examination it was found that for those who like the Tea Party the biggest issues they felt the nation faced were primarily the deficit and government spending, followed by the economy. 38.0% of those who like the Tea Party felt that the biggest issue in the United States was the deficit and government spending. The next biggest issue according to Tea Party supporters was the economy, with 20.7 %. However, when compared to those who dislike the Tea Party, clearly the biggest concern was the economy with 37.4%. After these two issues there were relatively equal concerns about the deficit and government spending, the environment, and other major issues with 10.1%, 10.1%, and 9.5% support respectively among those

who dislike the Tea Party. The strong belief among Tea Party supporters that the biggest issue facing the United States is the deficit and government spending, confirms all of the knowledge that was previously gained from my research about the Tea Party. The Tea Party arose out of disconcert with the economy, the role of the government, and the way the nation was heading. Tea Party supporters are trying to take control and change the issues they feel are affecting the United States the most, which can be seen today through items such as the 2012 Fiscal Budget put forth by Paul Ryan.

Paul Ryan, a Republican Congressman in the House of Representatives for the state of Wisconsin and chairman of the House Budget Committee, unveiled his proposal for the 2012 Fiscal Budget on April 5, 2011.[33] The House of Representatives passed his budget on April 15, 2011 with every Democratic Representative opposing the bill and all but four Republican Representatives voting for the bill.[34] Ryan's fiscal budget has been a huge source of controversy and will seriously change many existing programs if it is passed by the Senate. As part of his proposal, the budget would be reduced by $6.2 trillion over the next decade and would reduce the deficit by $4.4 trillion.[35] This budget would produce $1.1 trillion less in debt than President Obama's budget over the next five years and $3 trillion less than President Obama's budget over the next decade.[36] Under Ryan's budget, the size and role of the government would be significantly reduced. One way this is recognized is the spending level Ryan wants to reduce the government to, which would be 20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to President Obama's plan which projects spending to be about 22 percent of the GDP for the next decade.[37] In Ryan's plan, some of governmental spending cuts are seen in two of the biggest governmental programs, Medicare and Medicaid.[38] Medicare provides health

insurance to senior citizens that cannot afford coverage for themselves, and Medicaid helps provide health insurance to Americans who are too poor to afford private coverage.[39] In Ryan's plan the budget would cut $389 billion from Medicare and $735 billion from Medicaid over the next ten years .[40] Also part of Ryan's plan, is the proposal to lower taxes for those in the highest income bracket from 35% to 25%, which is nearly one third of their present rate.[41]

This budget represents a huge shift for Americans and the Republican Party, who just a few years ago helped to expand on Medicare through Medicare Part D (drug) Plan. On January 1, 2006 under President Bush, Medicare Part D went into effect, which was passed as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.[42] To gain eligibility into this prescription drug coverage program, one had to have benefits under Medicare Part A, Part B, or both.[43] The program works by providing benefits to those requiring prescription drugs through tax breaks and subsidies.[44] Since the need for prescription drugs has been ever increasing and they have become harder to afford, especially for seniors, this bill was passed in 2003, specifically focusing on the Part D Program. Under this program enrollees would pay a minimum monthly fee, have an annual deductible of $310, and pay 25% of full drug costs up to $2830.[45] After these limits were met, there was an issue called the "donut hole", where after spending $2830 the enrollee is then responsible for the insurance company's negotiated price of the drug up until the enrollee spent $4550 out of their own pocket, where then they will begin to receive benefits again and pay only a small minimum cost.[46] Under Ryan's proposal, Medicare and this program would completely change as we know it. While his proposal would not change eligibility for people who are currently 55 years or older, it would

change the system for anyone who was to turn 65 in 2021 or later.[47] Instead they would not enroll in the current Medicare programs but would receive a voucher to purchase private health insurance.[48] The voucher would not be implemented until 2021 and would take into account the average federal cost per Medicare enrollee and the growing rate from 2012 to 2021.[49] Another change starting in 2021 was the age of eligibility for Medicare would increase by two months per year until it reached age 67 in 2032.[50] Under this proposal, anyone who was dual enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid would no longer receive benefits from Medicaid with their Medicare premiums and cost sharing.[51] Instead, beginning in 2012 there will be a single deductible of $600 for services under Parts A and B of Medicare and after this deductible there will be a 20 percent coinsurance for all services.[52] However instead of having a cap of $3850, the new cap will be $6000, where the government will then step in again to help cover costs.[53] Another major change is the cost of coverage on prescriptions. Participants now covering 25% of the costs of the drugs, might be required to cover up to 50% of the costs of the drugs.[54] Under this new proposal, the government will be forcing seniors to purchase a private health care plan to whom the government would pay a specific amount in the form of subsidies.[55] This will be more expensive for Medicare recipients because they will most likely receive less extensive coverage and will have to pay higher premiums.[56] However, some members of the Republican Party believe that this can be a positive thing and encourage competition and growth in the private sector. This is a huge change from the Medicare laws, which Republicans passed just a few years ago, expanding Medicare and providing more benefits than ever before. Now, Republicans are proposing a budget where

Medicare is being phased out and probably eliminated over the next couple of decade, thus forcing seniors to pay higher costs.

Medicare is not the only program being substantially changed. Medicaid, aid to the poor, would also undergo a huge reform under Ryan's proposal. Under this new proposal the government would completely change the way Medicaid was financed. Currently, there is a matching program where the government helps to cover the costs by matching a certain percentage of the costs, even if each state increases the amount of Medicaid recipients in their state. In the new Republican proposal, there would only be a block grant allocated among the states. The block grant would increase annually based on the population growth and the increased cost of living. However, this will only provide a limited amount of funds and will probably not cover as much as the present plan. Yet supporters state that the new plan will allow government control over spending and will also allow states to use their Medicaid program as they see fit. [57]

Because of the substantial cuts this proposed Republican plan is making to Medicare and Medicaid, it is still able to reduce the taxes on the highest income earners from 35% to 25%, which is a drastic cut. This is completely opposite of President Obama's plan, which tries to balance the budget by increasing taxes and cutting some programs. Opponents of Ryan's fiscal budget argue that his plan is trying to finance the budget and reduce the deficit by taking away security from the seniors and the poor, forcing these groups to cover the costs of rising health care, while giving tax breaks to the richest. Yet, supporters of Ryan's plan argue they are still allowing anyone 55 years and older to participate in the current Medicare program and they are still providing options allowing seniors to choose their own plans.[58]

Most of the features within Ryan's proposal seem to be more extreme than the normal Republican views, and in fact seem to possess some of the qualities a Tea Party Budget would possess. Not only is this budget cutting the spending on two of the most controversial Tea Party issues, Medicare and Medicaid, it is in fact eliminating them slowly over the years. While Tea Partiers primarily joined together in the beginning because of their anger at the current economic condition and recession, in more recent times one of the biggest uniting factors for Tea Partiers has been the issue of Medicare. Not only have there been cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, which according to the ANES survey appeared to be some of the strongest issues for Tea Partiers, there was also a substantial cut in taxes among the wealthiest, another important issue among Tea Partiers. So why is it that only a few years ago, Republicans passed some of the largest expansions in health care, to only repeal it several years later? There has to be some driving force behind this change.

My theory on this sudden reversal of policy, is that the Tea Party is making an impact on the Republican Party, which is starting to create a visible change. While I do not believe the Tea Party will ever overcome the Republican Party, or become a large enough faction to branch off and make a third party, I do believe that they are capable of making changes within the Republican Party. As we previously discovered, Tea Party members are not only wealthier than the rest of the population, but also more educated. This attraction of the elite to the Tea Party indicates that it will sustain, its ideals are not likely to change, and it will not be easily co-opted. While Tea Party members have been branded as libertarian, this branding is incorrect. This white movement is just as conservative on their social and racial issues as they are on their economic issues. Tea

Party members have also begun to gain some seats in Congress and are becoming much more widely recognized, emphasizing they are capable of making their presence known thus gaining more support. While Paul Ryan is not a Tea Party member, it does not mean this Tea Party movement has not gained attention in the Republican Party and helped to create this shift in policy. All of the major issues Tea Partiers are concerned with are addressed in this budget, and they are put forth in an extremely conservative Tea Party way. Through this budget the government will be performing its duties required by law, but that is all. In fact, this budget sets up the government to continually do less and less over the next several years and decades, until it eliminates two of its biggest aid programs. This fiscal budget is much more extreme than anything the Republican Party normally puts forth, and I believe that part of this extremity is related to the Tea Party and their impact on the Republican Party. I do not believe this budget will be passed in its entirety. I believe it is too extreme to be passed into law, but it does represent a huge shift from the Republican stance taken just a few years ago. While this faction, the Tea Party, may not overcome the Republican party it can make changes and influence this party, which I believe is already starting and will continue into the future.

Tables:

Table 1: Gallup Poll Results

	Conservative Ideology	Male Gender	Annual Income Over 50 k/yr
All US Adults	40%	49%	55%
Tea Party Supporters	70%	55%	50%

Table 2: New York Times Poll Results

	Annual Income Over 100 k/yr	College Education	White Identification
All US Adults	14%	15%	77%
Tea Party Supporters	20%	23%	89%

Table 3: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Like Tea Party	434	27.6%
Dislike Tea Party	514	32.7%
Neither Like nor Dislike Tea Party	626	39.8%

Table 4: Respondent's Total Household Income

	$100000- $125000	$125000- $150000	$150000- $175000	$175000 and more
Frequency	134	98	70	83
Valid Percent	34.8%	25.5%	18.2%	21.6%

Table 5: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Respondent's Total Household Income

	$100000-$125000	$125000- $150000	$150000- $175000	$175000 and more
Like Tea Party	28.2%	30.8%	23.1%	17.9%

Table 6: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Republican Party x Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party

	Like Tea Party	Dislike Tea Party
Like Republican Party	56.8%	5.3%
Dislike Republican Party	10.9%	64.9%

Table 7: What is the Respondent's Interest in Government and Politics

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Extremely Interested	366	22.6%
Very Interested	524	32.4%
Moderately Interested	502	31.1%

Table 8: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x What is the Respondent's Interest in Government and Politics

	Extremely Interested	Very Interested	Moderately Interested
Like Tea Party	30.3%	34.4%	29.5%
Dislike Tea Party	30.7%	36.9%	26.6%

Table 9: Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose a Constitutional Amendment to Ban Gay Marriages

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Favor	495	30.7%
Oppose	729	45.2%

Table 10: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose a Constitutional Amendment to Ban Gay Marriages

	Favor Amendment	Oppose Amendment
Like Tea Party	48.6%	32.5%

Table 11: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Republican Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose a Constitutional Amendment to Ban Gay Marriages

	Favor Amendment	Oppose Amendment
Like Republican Party	46.5%	33.0%

Table 12: Does the Respondent Agree or Disagree with the Statement: Other Minorities Overcame Prejudice so Should Blacks

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Agree Strongly	467	29.8%
Agree Somewhat	409	26.1%
Neither Agree or Disagree	359	22.9%

Table 13: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Does the Respondent Agree or Disagree with the Statement: Other Minorities Overcame Prejudice so Should Blacks

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Neither Agree or Disagree
Like Tea Party	49.4%	29.3%	13.6%

Table 14: Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Raising Taxes on Those Earning Under 200 k/yr

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Favor Raising Taxes	114	7.1%
Oppose Raising Taxes	1276	79.1%

Table 15: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Raising Taxes on Those Earning Under 200 k/yr

	Favor Raising Taxes	Oppose Raising Taxes
Like Tea Party	4.5%	84.4%

Table 16: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Republican Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Raising Taxes on Those Earning Under 200 k/yr

	Favor Raising Taxes	Oppose Raising Taxes
Like Republican Party	4.7%	85.0%

Table 17: Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Raising Taxes on Those Earning Over 200 k/yr

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Favor Raising Taxes	895	55.4%
Oppose Raising Taxes	358	22.2%

Table 18: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Raising Taxes on Those Earning Over 200 k/yr

	Favor Raising Taxes	Oppose Raising Taxes
Like Tea Party	29.9%	48.0%

Table 19: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Republican Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Raising Taxes on Those Earning Over 200 k/yr

	Favor Raising Taxes	Oppose Raising Taxes
Like Republican Party	35.8%	39.5%

Table 20: Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Government Payment For All Health Care

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Favor Gov. Payment	674	41.7%
Oppose Gov. Payment	587	36.3%

Table 21: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Government Payment For All Health Care

	Favor Gov. Payment	Oppose Gov. Payment
Like Tea Party	18.4%	62.3%

Table 22: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Republican Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose Government Payment For All Health Care

	Favor Gov. Payment	Oppose Gov. Payment
Like Republican Party	21.5%	58.9%

Table 23: Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose the Health Care Bill

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Favor Health Care Bill	788	50.3%
Oppose Health Care Bill	516	32.9%

Table 24: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose the Health Care Bill

	Favor Health Care Bill	Oppose Health Care Bill
Like Tea Party	16.6%	72.4%

Table 25: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Republican Party x Does the Respondent Favor or Oppose the Health Care Bill

	Favor Health Care Bill	Oppose Health Care Bill
Like Republican Party	21.2%	62.4%

Table 26: Does the Respondent Like or Dislike the Tea Party x Most Important Problem Facing the United States

	The Economy	Deficit and Gov. Spending	Moral Decline	Something Else
Like Tea Party	20.7%	38.0%	15.0%	9.0%
Dislike Tea Party	37.4%	10.1%	7.2%	10.1%

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