

**DATE:** May 25, 2015

**TO:** Nick Dranias and Chip DeMoss, Compact for America Educational Foundation, Inc.

**FROM:** Greg Brooks, West Third Group

**RE:** Alabama polling

**FILE:** CFA-AL

## SUMMARY

There is broad, visceral support among Alabama voters, and particularly among self-identified Republican voters, for controlling runaway Washington debt. Overall support – before and after bringing up the potential for a runaway convention as well as before and after educating respondents about some of the specifics of the CFA approach – never drops below a solid majority even when margin of error is taken into account.

There are very few people who have no opinion on the overall issue or the specifics of it. Having said that, the prospect of a runaway convention could be the most effective weapon our opponents have. About half of all voters expressed some concern, with a similar level of Republicans feeling the same way. However, when we dig deeper into that concern, we find that less than 12% of Republicans are “extremely concerned” vs. 19% of the general population.

When told about provisions that would guarantee no other amendment would be brought up and that the amendment under consideration could not be changed, both voters overall and Republican voters in particular said they would support organizing such a convention (Q7) and have more confidence in the process (Q8). This support reveals majorities (and in the case of Republicans, very strong majorities) well beyond the margin of error.

Finally, When asked about a proposed constitutional amendment that had no realistic prospect of a runaway convention and featured elements contained in the CFA approach, respondents said they would support such a measure in numbers beyond the margin of error and, in the case of Republican voters, more than 85%.

## OVERALL TAKEAWAYS

**79%** Moderately or Extremely Concerned About The National Debt

**78%** Prefer Policies Balancing The Budget

**74%** Approve Of A Constitutional Amendment To Balance The Federal Budget

**68%** Approve Of Letting The States Have A Role In Deciding Washington's Borrowing

**73%** Approve Of The States Calling A Convention To Propose A Balanced Budget Amendment

**47%** Are Moderately or Extremely Concerned About A Runaway Convention When The Topic Is First Mentioned

## BUT...

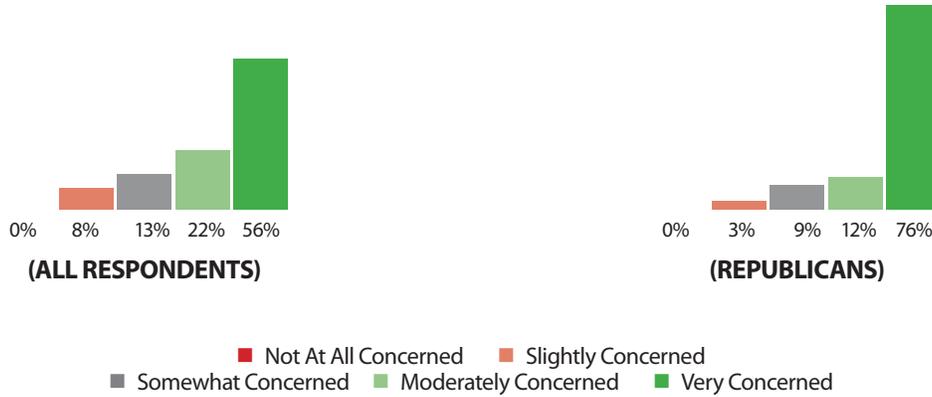
**67%** Approve Of A Balanced Budget .Amendment With The Compact For America's Features

*Results shown are based on polling 93 registered voters in Alabama, for a margin of error of 10% @ 95% confidence rate. While this isn't ideal, it generally does not affect the GOP crosstab because results were so unequivocal.*

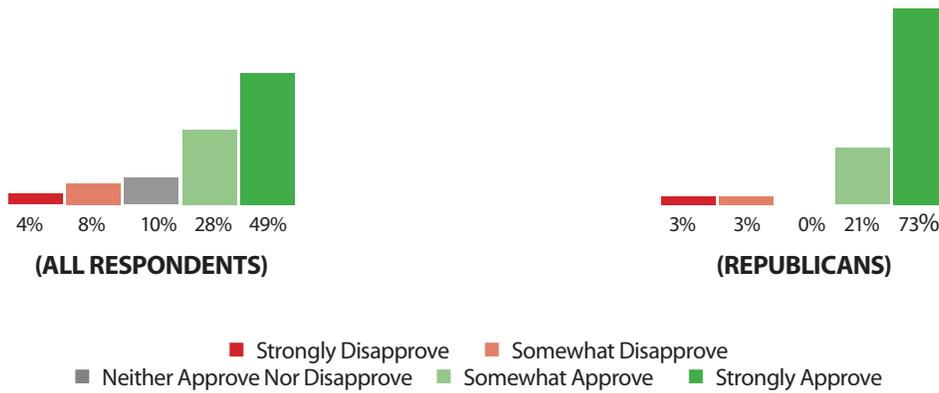
## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(All numbers shown are in [all-respondents / GOP respondents] format.)

**Q1. Are you concerned about America's national debt, which currently stands at more than \$18.2 trillion, or nearly \$160,000 per taxpayer?**



**Q2. Forty-nine out of the 50 states require that their own Governor and Legislature balance their budget, limiting spending to available revenue. Generally speaking, do you approve of such a policy?**



**Q3. The federal government has not balanced its budget for 20 years—since 1995. Since then, the federal government has increased our national debt from under \$5 trillion to over \$18 trillion, from around \$60,000 in debt per taxpayer to nearly \$160,000 in debt per taxpayer. Against that backdrop, would you approve of a proposal to amend the constitution to limit how much the federal government can borrow?**



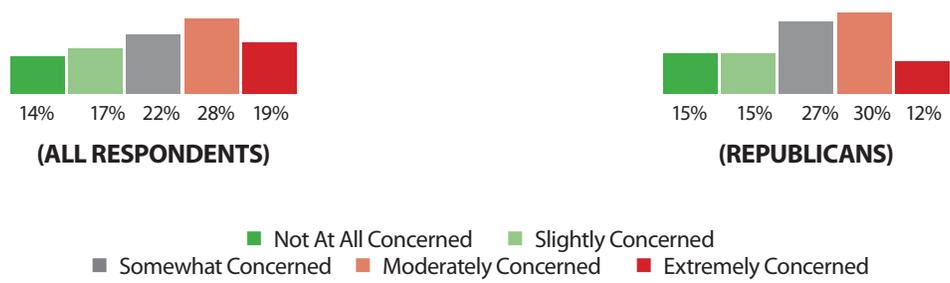
**Q4. The constitution currently does not limit how much the federal government can borrow. A balanced budget proposal under consideration would amend the constitution to limit how much the federal government could borrow to a specific amount, and otherwise require the federal government to get approval from a majority of state legislatures before borrowing even more. Would you generally approve of such a policy?**



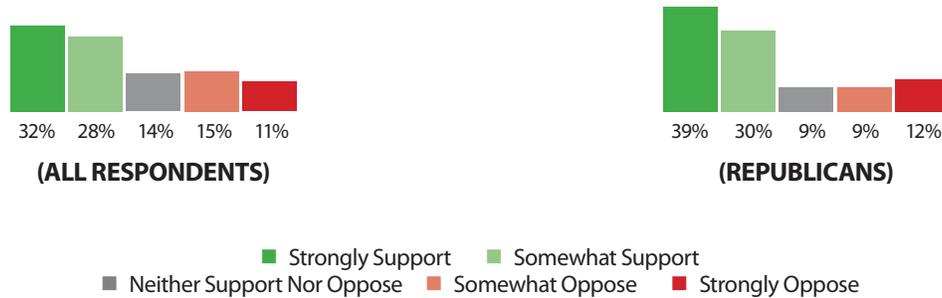
**Q5. States have the power to propose constitutional amendments. To do so, state legislatures must petition Congress to call a formal meeting of state representatives, which the constitution calls a “convention for proposing amendments” and some people call a “constitutional convention.” Would you support states organizing such a convention to propose a balanced budget amendment?**



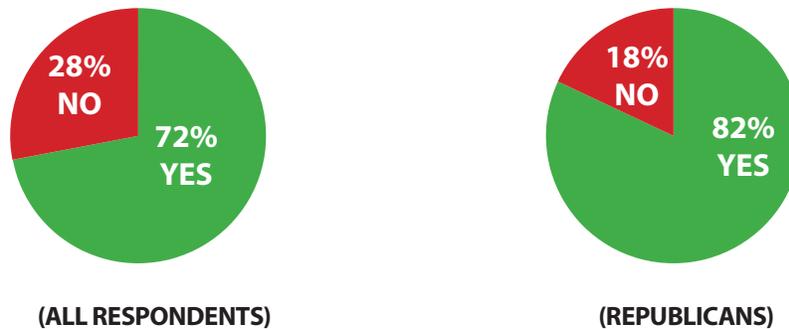
**Q6. Some people are concerned that if the states organized a convention for the specific purpose of proposing a balanced budget amendment, that the convention would instead do whatever it wanted and propose dangerous constitutional amendments. They call this a “runaway convention.” Knowing that 75% of the states—38 states—would have to approve, or “ratify,” any amendment that was proposed by a convention before it became part of the constitution, are you concerned about a “runaway convention”?**



**Q7. If the states organized a convention only after they agreed beforehand, in a legally binding contract, that no other amendment would be proposed other than a balanced budget amendment, would you support organizing such a convention?**



**Q8. If the states organized a convention only after they agreed beforehand, in a legally binding contract, to propose and ratify only a specific balanced budget amendment without modifications, or the convention would automatically disband, would this give you more confidence in the process?**



**Q9. If there were no realistic prospect of a so-called "runaway convention," would you approve of a specific balanced budget amendment that would limit how much the federal government could borrow, require a majority of state legislatures to approve any increase in borrowing capacity, and encourage spending reductions before tax increases to balance the budget?**



## **RESPONDENTS**

Republican: 35%

Democrat: 16%

Independent: 23%

Libertarian: 8%

Green: 0%

Other/Unaffiliated: 18%

(Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding)