Four Years Later

## Republicans Faring Better with Men, Whites, Independents and Seniors

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## Four Years Later

## Republicans Faring Better with Men, Whites, Independents and Seniors

The Republican Party's prospects for the midterm elections look much better than they did four years ago at this time, while the Democrats' look much worse. Voter preferences for the upcoming congressional elections remain closely divided (45\% support the Democratic candidate or lean Democratic, while 44\% favor the Republican or lean Republican). In polling conducted in August-September 2006, the Democrats held an 11point advantage (50\% to $39 \%$ ).

Major shifts in sentiment among key voting blocs account for the improved GOP standing in 2010. The Republicans now enjoy advantages among typically loyal voting blocs that wavered in 2006, notably men and whites.

The GOP is also now running better than four years ago among three key swing groups in recent elections independents, white Catholics and seniors.

The Republicans also continue to enjoy an

Who's Moving, Who's Staying: 2006-2010

|  | Aug-Sept 2006 |  | August 2010 |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dem |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vote for Congress... | Rep <br> $\%$ | Dem <br> $\%$ <br> Adv | Rep <br> $\%$ <br> Dem <br> Adv |  |  |
| All voters | 39 | 50 | +11 | 44 | 45 |$+1$

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010
Based on registered voters. Figures read across. engagement advantage over the Democrats, which at least in part reflects the greater disposition to vote among these voting blocs that have swung their way. In contrast, groups such as young people and African Americans, who continue to support the Democrats by comparable margins as in 2006, are relatively unenthused about voting.

| The latest national survey by the Pew Research | res | Race |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Center for the People \& the Press, conducted |  | Vote Rep | Vote Dem | DK | N |
| J uly 21-August 5 among 3,003 adults, |  |  | \% | \% |  |
| including 2,431 registered voters, finds that | All voters | 44 | 45 | 11 | 2431 |
| the basic contours of opinion about the | Republican | 93 | 5 | 3 | 754 |
| midterm election have changed little since the | Conservative Rep | 95 | 3 | 2 | 538 |
| start of the year. In four previous surveys in | Mod/Liberal Rep | 86 | 9 | 5 | 200 |
| 2010, preferences among registered voters | Democrat | 4 | 93 | 3 | 824 |
| were also evenly divided. Also as in past | Cons/Mod Dem | 6 | 90 | 4 | 477 |
| surveys, economic issues continue to be most | Liberal Dem | 2 | 98 | 1 | 316 |
| important for voters. At the other end of the | Independent | 42 | 35 | 23 | 747 |
|  | Lean Rep | 85 | 5 | 10 | 342 |
|  | Lean Dem | 10 | 78 | 12 | 277 |
|  | Men | 49 | 40 | 11 | 1035 |
|  | Women | 39 | 49 | 11 | 1396 |
|  | 18-29 | 39 | 49 | 12 | 294 |
|  | 30-49 | 44 | 44 | 12 | 657 |
|  | 50-64 | 44 | 47 | 9 | 790 |
|  | $65+$ | 46 | 43 | 11 | 641 |
| Republicans and Democrats express near- | White non-Hispanic | 51 | 38 | 11 | 1874 |
|  | Black non-Hispanic | 9 | 84 | 7 | 279 |
| own party ( $93 \%$ each), while independents are | Hispanic | 30 | 60 | 10 | 136 |
| divided (42\% for Republican candidates, vs. | College graduate | 46 | 45 | 10 | 96 |
| 35\% for Democratic candidates). | Some college | 44 | 44 | 12 | 651 |
|  | High school or less | 42 | 46 | 11 | 769 |
| More than eight-in-ten Republican-leaning | Protestant | 49 | 42 | 9 | 1352 |
| independents (85\%) favor the GOP candidate | White evangelical | 67 | 23 | 10 | 566 |
| in their district; 78\% of Democratic-leaning | White mainline | 50 | 41 | 9 | 460 |
| independents (\%) support the Democratic | Black Protestant | 7 | 86 | 7 | 227 |
| candidate. | Catholic | 41 | 49 | 10 | 528 |
|  | White non-Hisp | 48 | 43 | 9 | 420 |
|  | Unaffiliated | 36 | 49 | 16 | 320 |
| Men are 10 points more likely than women to | Tea Party |  |  |  |  |
| favor Republican candidates (49\% vs. 39\%). | Agree with | 84 | 9 | 7 | 696 |
| About half of white voters (51\%) favor | Disagree with | 9 | 84 | 6 | 578 |
| Republican candidates, while blacks | No opinion/ |  |  |  |  |
| overwhelmingly support Democratic | Never heard of | 38 | 47 | 15 | 1157 |
| candidates (84\%). Hispanic voters favor | PEW RESEARCH CENTE Based on registered vo | $\begin{aligned} & \text { igures re } \\ & \text { ing } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5,2010 . \\ & \text { across. } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |

Democrats by a two-to-one margin (60\% to 30\%).

About a quarter of all voters (27\%) say they generally agree with the Tea Party political movement; and the vast majority of this group (84\%) says they will vote Republican this fall. Conversely, those who disagree with the Tea Party ( $22 \%$ of voters) overwhelmingly support Democratic candidates (84\%). About half of voters (51\%) have never heard of the Tea Party or have no opinion of it; these voters favor Democratic candidates 0ver GOP candidates by a modest margin (47\% to 38\%)

## Wide Partisan Gap in Engagement Persists

In the current survey, $44 \%$ of voters say they have given "quite a lot" of thought to the November election. This is comparable to the level of interest expressed by voters in September 2006 (45\%), though it is quite a bit higher than in September 2002, when just $36 \%$ said they had given a lot of thought to the upcoming elections. Currently, interest is on par with levels later in the 1994 and 1998 midterm campaigns ( $44 \%$ and $42 \%$, respectively, in early October of those two years).

The partisan enthusiasm gap seen in surveys earlier this year persists. (For a detailed analysis of the GOP's enthusiasm advantage, see "Voting Intentions Even, Turnout Indicators Favor GOP,"J uly 1, 2010).

| GOP's Engagement Advantage |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Given a lot of thought to the election \% | Absolutely certain to vote \% |
| All voters | 44 | 70 |
| Plan to... |  |  |
| Vote Republican | 59 | 79 |
| Vote Democratic | 34 | 66 |
| Party identification |  |  |
| Republican | 55 | 77 |
| Conservative Rep | 62 | 81 |
| Mod/Liberal Rep | 41 | 71 |
| Democrat | 37 | 69 |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 37 | 69 |
| Liberal Dem | 39 | 69 |
| Independent | 43 | 66 |
| Lean Rep | 62 | 76 |
| Lean Dem | 29 | 59 |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Based on registered voters. |  |  |

Republicans and conservatives continue express far greater interest in the election than do Democrats and liberals. More than half of Republicans (55\%) say they have given a lot of thought to the election, compared with $37 \%$ of Democrats. Among Republican-leaning independents, $62 \%$ have given a lot of thought to the election; Democratic-leaning independents are much less engaged (29\%). Among Republicans, conservatives are far more engaged than those who describe themselves as moderates or liberals ( $62 \%$ vs. $41 \%$ ).

Republican voters also are more likely than Democrats to say they are absolutely certain to vote in November. More than three-quarters of Republicans ( $77 \%$ ) say they are certain to vote, compared with 69\% of Democrats. There is a somewhat larger gap between independents who lean Republican ( $76 \%$ certain to vote) and those who lean Democratic (59\%). As with thought given to the election, conservative Republicans are the most engaged, with fully $81 \%$ saying they are certain to vote.

Taking two indicators of engagement together - thought given to the election and intention to vote- it is clear that Republicans and Republican leaning groups are far more energized at this point in the campaign than are Democrats and Democratic groups. Overall, 39\% of registered voters are highly engaged: They have given a lot of thought to the campaign and say they definitely will vote.

| Men, Seniors and Whites More Eager to Vote |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Engagement in the campaign* |  |  |  |
|  | High \% | Medium <br> \% | Low \% |
| All voters | 39 | 36 | 25 |
| Men | 46 | 33 | 22 |
| Women | 34 | 38 | 27 |
| 18-29 | 23 | 34 | 43 |
| 30-49 | 35 | 39 | 26 |
| 50-64 | 47 | 33 | 19 |
| 65+ | 49 | 36 | 15 |
| White, non-Hispanic | 43 | 35 | 23 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 24 | 43 | 33 |
| Hispanic | 35 | 33 | 32 |
| College graduate | 47 | 33 | 20 |
| Some college | 39 | 39 | 22 |
| High school or less | 33 | 36 | 31 |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. <br> Based on registered voters. <br> *High engagement voters are those who have given "a lot of thought" to the election and are "absolutely certain" to vote in November. Medium engagement are those who say yes to one of these two. Low engagement are those who say yes to neither of these two questions. |  |  |  |

Among voters who identify as Republicans, 50\% fall into to this high engagement category. Perhaps equally important, $57 \%$ of independents who say they lean to the GOP are rated as highly engaged.

By comparison, Democrats are significantly less engaged. J ust 33\% of Democrats and $23 \%$ of Democratic-leaning independents fall into the high engagement category. Similarly, relatively few among two key demographic groups that supported Democratic candidates in 2006 and 2008, African Americans and young people, rate high on campaign engagement ( $24 \%$ for African Americans, 23\% for voters ages 18 to 29).

It is important to keep in mind that interest in the election is not the only factor that motivates voting. Many people vote as a habit, which may be why the overall percentage saying they are "certain to vote" - either absolutely or fairly certain - is more similar between the parties. This survey did not ask about previous voting behavior, which is a usual part of pollsters' indexes of likely voting.

Much as the Democratic Party attempted to make the 2006 elections a referendum on Republican control of the government, Republican candidates are stressing national issues this year, and Republican voters are more likely than others to say national issues are important. Asked which factor among four would be most important in their vote, a small plurality ( $36 \%$ ) of all voters picked national issues, followed by $29 \%$ for local or state issues, $22 \%$ for candidate character and experience, and just 5\% who said the candidate's political party would be most important. The percentage choosing national issues is higher than in September 2006, when 29\% chose this option, and is far larger than in off-year elections from 1994 through 2002.

Among voters who support the GOP candidate in their district, 45\% say national issues are most important, compared with $30 \%$ among those who say they intend to vote Democratic.

## Issue Priorities and the Vote for Congress

The economy and jobs are the dominant issues of 2010. Nine-in-ten voters cite the economy as very important and about the same percentage (88\%) cites jobs. The economy and jobs are viewed as very important by comparably large percentages of voters who intend to vote Republican and Democratic.

By contrast, same-sex marriage ranks at the bottom of the list for both Republican and Democratic voters. Same-sex marriage was recently in the news because of a federal district court judge's ruling that the California proposition banning gay marriage is unconstitutional.

Other issues at the top of the list include health care (at 78\% very important), terrorism (71\%), the federal budget deficit (69\%) and

| Bipartisan Agreement: <br> It's the Economy and Jobs |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \% saying each issue is "very important"... |  |  |
| All Voters | Republican Voters | Democratic Voters |
| 90 Economy | 91 Economy | 89 Economy |
| 88 Jobs | 87 Jobs | 88 Jobs |
| 78 Health care | 81 Budget deficit | 85 Health care |
| 71 Terrorism | 80 Taxes | 71 Financial system |
| 69 Budget deficit | 79 Terrorism | 70 Environment |
| 68 Taxes | 73 Health care | 69 Energy |
| 65 Financial system | 70 Immigration | 64 Terrorism |
| 62 Energy | 62 Financial system | 61 Afghanistan |
| 59 Afghanistan | 59 Afghanistan | 60 Budget deficit |
| 58 Immigration | 56 Energy | 58 Taxes |
| 57 Environment | 51 Abortion | 47 Immigration |
| 43 Abortion | 42 Environment | 37 Abortion |
| 32 Same-sex marriage | 37 Same-sex marriage | 26 Same-sex marriage |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. |  |  |
| Based on registered voters. |  |  | taxes (68\%). Mid-tier issues include the banking and financial system (65\%), energy (62\%), Afghanistan (59\%), immigration (58\%) and the environment (57\%). Rounding out the list are abortion (43\% very important) and same-sex marriage (32\%).

There are sizable partisan differences in views of the importance of some issues. While about eight-in-ten voters who support Republican candidates see the budget deficit (81\%) and taxes ( $80 \%$ ) as very important, smaller majorities of Democratic voters say the same ( $60 \%$ budget deficit, $58 \%$ taxes). And immigration is rated a very important by substantially more Republican voters (70\%) than Democratic voters (47\%).

Seven-in-ten voters who intend to vote Democratic say the environment will be very important, compared with fewer than half (42\%) of Republican voters. The financial
system also is seen as very important by somewhat more Democratic than Republican voters ( $71 \%$ vs. $62 \%$ ).

## Obama Approval Stable

President Obama'sjob approval rating stands at $47 \%$, a number that has changed very little all year; $41 \%$ currently disapprove of his performance in office.

The stability in Obama's ratings for the past several months is evident not just among the public overall, but among most subgroups in the population. His core supporters continue to give him high ratings, including Democrats (79\% approval) and African Americans (89\%). He gets nearly unanimous approval from liberal Democrats (90\%).

Even among groups with more mixed opinions, there has been little evidence of a trend for the past several months. Independents remain divided (42\% approve, $43 \%$ disapprove), while a plurality of whites continue to disapprove ( $49 \%$, vs. $38 \%$ who approve).

| Obama J ob Rating |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Approve <br> $\%$ | Dis- <br> approve <br> $\%$ | DK |
| All | 47 | 41 | $12=100$ |
| Republican | 14 | 78 | $8=100$ |
| Conservative Rep | 9 | 84 | $7=100$ |
| Mod/Liberal Rep | 22 | 70 | $9=100$ |
| Democrat | 79 | 13 | $8=100$ |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 74 | 16 | $10=100$ |
| Liberal Dem | 90 | 7 | $3=100$ |
| Independent | 42 | 43 | $15=100$ |
| Lean Rep | 20 | 69 | $11=100$ |
| Lean Dem | 67 | 22 | $12=100$ |
| Men | 43 | 45 | $12=100$ |
| Women | 50 | 39 | $11=100$ |
| 18-29 | 54 | 31 | $15=100$ |
| 30-49 | 47 | 42 | $11=100$ |
| 50-64 | 46 | 44 | $11=100$ |
| 65+ | 40 | 50 | $10=100$ |
| White, non-Hispanic | 38 | 49 | $12=100$ |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 89 | 4 | $8=100$ |
| Hispanic | 56 | 34 | $10=100$ |
| College graduate | 49 | 43 | $9=100$ |
| Some college | 45 | 44 | $10=100$ |
| High school or less | 46 | 39 | $15=100$ |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July $21-$ August 5, | 2010 |  |  |
| Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Obama J ob Approval Trends


Obama Job Approval Trends


Approval by Party Leaning among I ndependents

100


0
Feb Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec Feb Apr Jun Aug ---------- 2009 ---------- ------ 2010 ------

## Approval by Family Income

$\qquad$
75
Under $\$ 50,000$
50


25
$0 \longmapsto 1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1+$
Feb Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec Feb Apr Jun Aug ---------- 2009 ---------- ------ 2010 ------

Approval by Education among White non-Hispanics 100

75


> Feb Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec Feb Apr Jun Aug ---------- 2009 ---------------------- 2010 ---

## Obama in a Word

Good is the word that people use most frequently to describe Obama. In a separate survey by the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press, conducted Aug.5-8 among 1,002 adults, 49 say that good is the word that first comes to mind in describing Obama. Other words used frequently are trying (mentioned by 36 respondents) and disappointing (32).

The word good is used more frequently to describe Obama than in previous surveys. In a survey in J anuary, in which 740 respondents were asked to give a one-word description of Obama, 18 mentioned good; in April 2009 (asked of a sample of 742), 29 used that word. Mentions of trying also have increased from 12 in April 2009 to 21 in J anuary and 36 in the current survey.

Some negative terms also are being used more frequently, including disappointing, incompetent and idiot: 32 now describe Obama as disappointing (six did so in J anuary); 22 use the word

One-Word Impressions of Barack Obama
Number of respondents - not percentages - giving each response...

| April 2009 | \# | Jan 2010 | \# | Aug 2010 | \# |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Intelligent | 30 | Intelligent | 25 | Good | 49 |
| Good | 29 | Inexperienced 21 | Trying | 36 |  |
| Socialist | 20 | Trying | 21 | Disappointing | 32 |
| Liberal | 17 | Good | 18 | Fair | 25 |
| Great | 16 | Socialist | 15 | Incompetent | 22 |
| Confident | 15 | Honest | 12 | Intelligent | 18 |
| Inexperienced | 13 | Unqualified | 12 | Idiot | 17 |
| Honest | 12 | Arrogant | 11 | President | 17 |
| Trying | 12 | Fair | 11 | Liar | 15 |
| Smart | 11 | Incompetent | 11 | Socialist | 15 |
| Change | 10 | Confident | 10 | Competent | 14 |
| Competent | 10 | Different | 10 | Great | 13 |
| Excellent | 10 | Strong | 10 | OK | 12 |
| Spender | 10 | Change | 8 | Excellent | 11 |
| Arrogant | 9 | Great | 8 | Charismatic | 10 |
| Hope | 9 | OK | 7 | Inexperienced | 10 |
| Charismatic | 8 | Smart | 7 | Leader | 10 |
| President | 8 |  |  | Unqualified | 10 |
| Different | 7 |  |  | Overwhelmed | 8 |
| Leader | 7 |  |  | Bad | 7 |
|  |  |  |  | Determined | 7 |
| N=742 |  | $N=740$ |  | N=1002 | 7 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 5-8, 2010. Based on general public. incompetent (11 in J anuary); and 17 describe Obama as an idiot (five in J anuary).

## About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 3,003 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from J uly 21-August 5, 2010 (2,002 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 431 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http:// peoplepress.org/methodology/ .

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95\% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Sample Size | Plus or minus $\ldots$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Total sample | 3,003 | 2.5 percentage points |
|  |  |  |
| Registered voters | 2,431 | 2.5 percentage points |
| $\quad$ Republican RVs | 754 | 4.5 percentage points |
| Democratic RVs | 824 | 4.5 percentage points |
| $\quad$ Independent RVs | 747 | 4.5 percentage points |

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## About the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:
Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to www.people-press.org.

## PRESI DENTI AL J OB APPROVAL TABLE

Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

|  | Approve <br> $\%$ | Dis- <br> approve | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | (N) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TOTAL | 47 | 41 | $\%$ | 12 |

## PRESI DENTI AL J OB APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)

Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?


## PRESI DENTI AL J OB APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)

Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

|  | Approve | Disapprove | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | (N) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% |  |
| AMONG I NDEPENDENTS |  |  |  |  |
| Men | 40 | 46 | 14 | 513 |
| Women | 45 | 39 | 17 | 464 |
| 18-49 | 48 | 37 | 16 | 478 |
| 50+ | 34 | 52 | 15 | 484 |
| College grad | 45 | 43 | 12 | 371 |
| Some college or less | 41 | 43 | 16 | 601 |
| RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE |  |  |  |  |
| Total White NH Prot. | 30 | 58 | 12 | 1200 |
| White NH evang. Prot. | 21 | 67 | 12 | 663 |
| White NH mainline Prot. | 41 | 47 | 12 | 534 |
| Total Catholic | 48 | 41 | 11 | 657 |
| White NH Cath. | 42 | 46 | 12 | 477 |
| Unaffiliated | 54 | 31 | 14 | 446 |
| ATTEND SERVICES |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 40 | 49 | 11 | 1238 |
| Monthly/yearly | 51 | 38 | 11 | 975 |
| Seldom/never | 52 | 35 | 13 | 747 |
| NET Less than weekly | 52 | 37 | 12 | 1722 |
| REGION |  |  |  |  |
| Northeast | 52 | 38 | 11 | 539 |
| Midwest | 47 | 40 | 13 | 732 |
| South | 44 | 45 | 12 | 1183 |
| West | 47 | 41 | 12 | 549 |
| AMONG WHITES |  |  |  |  |
| Men | 35 | 53 | 13 | 981 |
| Women | 42 | 46 | 12 | 1230 |
| 18-49 | 40 | 46 | 13 | 880 |
| 50+ | 36 | 53 | 11 | 1304 |
| College grad | 44 | 49 | 7 | 878 |
| Some college or less | 36 | 49 | 15 | 1325 |
| \$75,000+ | 40 | 52 | 8 | 685 |
| \$30,000-\$74,999 | 39 | 51 | 10 | 715 |
| <\$30,000 | 44 | 40 | 16 | 444 |
| Republican | 11 | 81 | 8 | 754 |
| Democrat | 74 | 16 | 10 | 597 |
| Independent | 39 | 47 | 15 | 736 |
| East | 46 | 41 | 13 | 416 |
| Midwest | 41 | 46 | 13 | 619 |
| South | 31 | 57 | 12 | 800 |
| West | 40 | 48 | 12 | 376 |

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION \& PUBLIC LIFE 2010 RELIGI ON \& PUBLIC LI FE SURVEY <br> FI NAL TOPLI NE <br> July 21-August 5, 2010 <br> N=3,003 

## ASK ALL:

Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STI LL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | Approve | Dis- <br> approve | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 48 | 41 | 12 |
| May 6-9, 2010 | 47 | 43 | 9 |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 47 | 42 | 11 |
| Apr 8-11, 2010 | 48 | 42 | 11 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 46 | 43 | 9 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 49 | 33 | 12 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 49 | 42 | 12 |
| Dec 9-13, 2009 | 49 | 40 | 10 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 51 | 36 | 11 |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 52 | 36 | 13 |
| Sep 10-15, 2009 | 55 | 33 | 12 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 52 | 37 | 13 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 51 | 37 | 12 |
| Jul 22-26, 2009 | 54 | 34 | 12 |
| Jun 10-14, 2009 | 61 | 30 | 9 |
| Apr 14-21, 2009 | 63 | 26 | 11 |
| Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009 | 61 | 26 | 13 |
| Mar 9-12, 2009 | 59 | 26 | 15 |
| Feb 4-8, 2009 | 64 | 17 | 19 |

## ASK ALL:

The congressional elections will be coming up later this year
THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming November election... Quite a lot or only a little?
BASED ON REGI STERED VOTERS [ $\mathbf{N}=2431$ ]:

|  |  | Quite | (VOL.) | Only a | (VOL.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | A lot | Some | Little | None/DK/Ref |
| 2010 | Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 44 | 5 | 44 | 7 |
| 2006 | November, 2006 | 61 | 5 | 28 | 6 |
|  | Late October, 2006 | 54 | 6 | 35 | 5 |
|  | Early October, 2006 | 51 | 4 | 40 | 5 |
|  | September, 2006 | 45 | 4 | 48 | 3 |
| 2002 | Early November, 2002 | 52 | 6 | 35 | 7 |
|  | Early October, 2002 | 45 | 6 | 45 | 4 |
|  | Early September, 2002 | 36 | 5 | 54 | 5 |
| 1998 | Late October, 1998 | 49 | 11 | 35 | 5 |
|  | Early October, 1998 | 42 | 8 | 43 | 7 |
| 1994 | November, 1994 | 56 | 7 | 32 | 5 |
|  | Late October, 1994 | 45 | 7 | 45 | 3 |
|  | Early October, 1994 | 44 | 2 | 50 | 4 |
| 1990 | Gallup: October, 1990 ${ }^{1}$ | 43 | 7 | 46 | 4 |
|  | Gallup: October, 1982 | 29 | 22 | 37 | 12 |

1
Gallup trends based on general public.

THOUGHT CONTI NUED...

|  |  | Quite | (VOL.) | Only a | (VOL.) |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1978 | Gallup: October, 1978 | $\frac{\text { A lot }}{}$ | Some | Little | DK/Ref |
|  | Gallup: September, 1978 | 21 | 18 | 39 | 17 |
|  | 21 | 18 | 44 | 18 |  |

ASK ALL:
Q. 2 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMI ZE: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for Congress in your district?
ASK IF ANSWERED OTHER OR DON'T KNOW (Q.2=3,9):
Q.2a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.2; IF NECESSARY: "for U.S. Congress in your district"]?

BASED ON REGI STERED VOTERS [ $\mathrm{N}=2431$ ]:

|  | Rep/ Lean Rep | Dem/ Lean Dem | (VOL.) <br> Other/ <br> Undecided |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 44 | 45 | 11 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 45 | 45 | 10 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 44 | 44 | 12 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 42 | 45 | 13 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 42 | 47 | 11 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 44 | 45 | 10 |
| 2008 Election |  |  |  |
| June, 2008 | 37 | 52 | 11 |
| 2006 Election |  |  |  |
| November, 2006 | 40 | 48 | 12 |
| Late October, 2006 | 38 | 49 | 13 |
| Early October, 2006 | 38 | 51 | 11 |
| September, 2006 | 39 | 50 | 11 |
| August, 2006 | 41 | 50 | 9 |
| June, 2006 | 39 | 51 | 10 |
| April, 2006 | 41 | 51 | 8 |
| February, 2006 | 41 | 50 | 9 |
| Mid-September, 2005 | 40 | 52 | 8 |
| 2004 Election |  |  |  |
| June, 2004 | 41 | 48 | 11 |
| 2002 Election |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2002 | 42 | 46 | 12 |
| Early October, 2002 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| Early September, 2002 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| June, 2002 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| February, 2002 | 46 | 45 | 9 |
| Early November, 2001 | 44 | 44 | 12 |
| 2000 Election |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2000 | 42 | 48 | 10 |
| Early October, 2000 | 43 | 47 | 10 |
| July, 2000 | 43 | 47 | 10 |
| February, 2000 | 44 | 47 | 9 |
| October, 1999 | 43 | 49 | 8 |
| June, 1999 | 40 | 50 | 10 |
| 1998 Election |  |  |  |
| Late October, 1998 | 40 | 47 | 13 |
| Early October, 1998 | 43 | 44 | 13 |
| Early September, 1998 | 45 | 46 | 9 |
| Late August, 1998 | 44 | 45 | 11 |
| Early August, 1998 | 42 | 49 | 9 |
| June, 1998 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| March, 1998 | 40 | 52 | 8 |

## Q.2/ Q.2a CONTI NUED...

|  | Rep/ <br> Lean Rep | Dem/ <br> Lean Dem | (VOL.) <br> Other/ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Undecided |  |  |  |
| February, 1998 <br> January, 1998 | 41 | 50 | 9 |
| August, 1997 | 41 | 51 | 8 |
| 1996 Election | 45 | 48 | 7 |
| November, 1996 |  |  |  |
| October, 1996 | 44 | 48 | 8 |
| Late September, 1996 | 42 | 43 | 49 |
| Early September, 1996 | 43 | 51 | 9 |
| July, 1996 | 46 | 47 | 8 |
| June, 1996 | 44 | 50 | 7 |
| March, 1996 | 44 | 49 | 6 |
| January, 1996 | 46 | 47 | 7 |
| October, 1995 | 48 | 48 | 7 |
| August, 1995 | 50 | 43 | 4 |
| 1994 Election |  |  | 7 |
| November, 1994 | 45 | 43 | 12 |
| Late October, 1994 | 47 | 44 | 9 |
| Early October, 1994 | 52 | 40 | 8 |
| September, 1994 | 48 | 46 | 6 |
| July, 1994 | 45 | 47 | 8 |

ASK ALL:
PLANTO1 Thinking ahead to November, do you yourself plan to vote in the Congressional election this November, or not? ${ }^{3}$
ASK IF YES (PLANTO1=1):
PLANTO2 How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, or not certain?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ N=2431]:

|  | Yes, plan to vote | Absolutely certain | Fairly certain | Not certain | No, don't plan to | (VOL.) <br> DK/ Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 91 | 70 | 17 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 90 | 69 | 19 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 91 | 69 | 20 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 2008 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mid-October, $2008{ }^{4}$ | 97 | 92 | 5 | * | 2 | 1 |
| Early October, 2008 | 97 | 92 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Late September, 2008 | 97 | 91 | 6 | * | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-September, 2008 | 97 | 90 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| August, 2008 | 97 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 |
| July, 2008 | 97 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 |
| June, 2008 | 95 | 85 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 2006 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 2006 | 90 | -- | -- | -- | 8 | 2 |
| Late October, 2006 | 94 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 3 |
| Early October, 2006 | 93 | 75 | 17 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Early September, 2006 | 92 | -- | -- | -- | 5 | 3 |

[^0]
## PLANTO1/ PLANTO2 CONTI NUED. . .

|  | Yes, plan to vote | Absolutely certain | Fairly certain | Not certain | No, don't plan to | (VOL.) <br> DK/ Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2004 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 2004 | 97 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 98 | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Early October, 2004 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September, 2004 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 98 | 89 | 8 | 1 | 2 | * |
| June, 2004 | 96 | 85 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 2002 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2002 | 90 | -- | -- | -- | 8 | 2 |
| Early October, 2002 | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 2 |
| 2000 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2000 | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 1 |
| Late October, 2000 | 97 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2000 | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 2 |
| Early October, 2000 | 97 | 87 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| September, 2000 | 95 | 84 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| June, 2000 | 95 | 84 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1998 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Late October, 1998 | 91 | -- | -- | -- | 6 | 3 |
| Early October, 1998 | 92 | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 4 |
| Early September, 1998 | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 3 |
| Late August, 1998 | 93 | 75 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| June, 1998 | 95 | 74 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 1996 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1996 | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 2 |
| October, 1996 | 98 | 87 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Late September, 1996 | 98 | 89 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Early September, 1996 | 96 | 83 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| July, 1996 | 95 | 82 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| June, 1996 | 96 | 84 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 1994 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1994 | 93 | -- | -- | -- | 5 | 2 |
| October, 1994 | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 2 |
| 1992 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October, 1992 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September, 1992 | 98 | 85 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| August, 1992 | 97 | 89 | 8 | * | 1 | 2 |
| June, 1992 | 97 | 88 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1988 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gallup: November, 1988 | 8897 | 87 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| October, 1988 | 98 | -- | -- | - | 1 | 1 |

## NO QUESTI ONS 3-6

Q. 7 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district - national issues, local or state issues, the candidate's political party, or the candidate's character and experience? [IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?]

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ $\mathrm{N}=2431$ ]:



| Q. 7 CONTI NUED... |  |  |  |  | (VOL.) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | National | Local/State | Political | Character/ | (VOL.) | (VOL.) | DK/ |
|  | issues | issues | party | Experience | Other | None | Ref. |
| June, 2006 | 30 | 26 | 6 | 33 | 2 | * | 3 |
| 2002 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2002 | 23 | 38 | 7 | 26 | 2 | * | 4 |
| Early October, 2002 | 28 | 35 | 5 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| June, 2002 | 26 | 30 | 5 | 33 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 2000 Election 26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early October, 2000 | 21 | 42 | 9 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| July, 2000 | 18 | 40 | 6 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1998 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Late October, 1998 | 20 | 39 | 5 | 27 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Early October, 1998 | 23 | 36 | 7 | 28 | 1 | * | 5 |
| Early September, 1998 | 22 | 34 | 5 | 33 | 2 | * | 4 |
| Early August, 1998 | 20 | 38 | 5 | 31 | 2 | * | 4 |
| June, 1998 | 22 | 37 | 4 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| March, 1998 | 18 | 37 | 6 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1996 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1996 | 23 | 38 | 6 | 25 | 2 | * | 6 |
| October, 1996 | 19 | 45 | 7 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Late September, 1996 | 25 | 38 | 6 | 24 | 2 | * | 5 |
| Early September, 1996 | 18 | 42 | 6 | 30 | 1 | * | 3 |
| 1994 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1994 | 22 | 38 | 5 | 30 | 1 | * | 4 |
| Late October, 1994 | 22 | 38 | 3 | 29 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Early October, 1994 | 22 | 27 | 5 | 39 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 1986 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CBS/ NYT: 10/24-28, 1986 | 622 | 25 | 6 | 40 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| CBS/ NYT: 9/28-10/1, 198 | 8620 | 23 | 9 | 41 | 3 | * | 4 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 8 As you think about the elections for Congress this November, how important are each of the following issues to you. Is the issue of [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: As you think about the elections for Congress this November, is the issue of [ITEM] very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important to you?] [I NTERVI EWER: PLEASE RE-READ RESPONSE OPTI ONS AS NECESSARY TO REMI ND RESPONDENTS OF OPTI ONS]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ $\mathrm{N}=2431$ ]:

## ASK ALL:

a. The economy
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Mid-October, 2008
August, 2008
Late May, 2008
October, 2007
June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
August, 2004

| Very | Somewhat <br> Important | Not too <br> Important | Not at all <br> Important | Don't Know/ <br> Important |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Refused |  |  |  |  |

1 ONLY [ N = 1207]
b.F1 Gay marriage

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 29 | 20 | 16 | 32 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 28 | 21 | 21 | 27 | 3 |
| August, 2008 | 28 | 20 | 18 | 32 | 2 |
| Late May, 2008 | 28 | 21 | 19 | 29 | 3 |
| October, 2007 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 32 | 4 |

## Q. 8 CONTI NUED...

|  | Very | Somew | Not too | Not | n |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Important | Important | Important | Important | Refused |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 32 | 22 | 19 | 24 | 3 |
| August, 2004 | 34 | 19 | 15 | 30 | 2 |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1224$ :]

b.F2 Same sex marriage

Jul 21-Aug 5, 201032
b.F1/b.F2

BASED ON ALL REGI STERED VOTERS:
Gay marriage/ Same sex marriage

Jul 21-Aug 5, 201031
20
ASK ALL:
c. Abortion

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 43 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 41 |
| August, 2008 | 39 |
| Late May, 2008 | 40 |
| October, 2007 | 39 |
| June, 2007 | 40 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 47 |
| August, 2004 | 45 |

ASK ALL:
d. The environment

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Mid-October, 2008
August, 2008
Late May, 2008
October, 2007
June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
August, 200455
24
29
26
27
26
30
27
25

| 13 | 17 | 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 16 | 12 | 2 |
| 17 | 15 | 3 |
| 15 | 15 | 3 |
| 17 | 13 | 5 |
| 13 | 14 | 3 |
| 12 | 11 | 3 |
| 13 | 14 | 3 |

ASK ALL:
e. Immigration

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Mid-October, 2008
August, 2008 Late May, 2008
October, 2007
June, 2007
58
49
52
54
56
54

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $N=1207$ ]:
f.F1 Afghanistan

Jul 21-Aug 5, $2010 \quad 59$
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1207$ ]: g.F1 Jobs

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Mid-October, 2008
88
Late May, 2008
October, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
29
32
33
32
31
34

| 1 | $*$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 |
| 1 | $*$ |

## Q. 8 CONTI NUED...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ N=1207]: \begin{tabular}{c}
Very <br>
Important

 

Somewhat <br>
Important

$\quad$

Not too <br>
Important

$\quad$

Not at all <br>
Important

 

Don't Know/ <br>
Refused
\end{tabular}

h.F1 Energy

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 62 | 30 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 78 | 18 | 3 | 1 | $*$ |
| August, 2008 | 77 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Late May, 2008 | 77 | 20 | 2 | $*$ | 1 |
| October, 2007 | 65 | 28 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| June, 2007 | 61 | 32 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 54 | 37 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 53 | 40 | 6 | $*$ | 1 |

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $N=1207$ ]:
i.F1 The banking and financial system

Jul 21-Aug 5, 201065
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $N=1224$ ]:
j.F2 Terrorism

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 71 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 69 |
| August, 2008 | 72 |
| Late May, 2008 | 68 |
| October, 2007 | 69 |
| June, 2007 | 69 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 77 |
| August, 2004 | 75 |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $N=1224$ ]:
k.F2 Health care

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Mid-October, 2008
August, 2008
Late May, 2008
October, 2007
June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
August, 2004

| 78 | 17 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 77 | 19 |
| 73 | 21 |
| 78 | 17 |
| 76 | 18 |
| 71 | 23 |
| 73 | 22 |
| 72 | 21 |

3
2
5
3
4
4
4
5
$*$
1
$*$
$*$
$*$
$*$
$*$

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1224$ ]:

## I.F2 Taxes

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Mid-October, 2008
68
Late May, 2008
24
24
6
1
1
October, 2007
28
28
June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
31
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1224$ ]:
m.F2 The federal budget deficit

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 69 | 22 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Late May, 2008 | 69 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| October, 2007 | 61 | 28 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 57 | 32 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 55 | 35 | 7 | 3 | $*$ |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 9 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year? Have you heard ... [READ]

Jul 21-Aug 5

| Jun 16-20 | May 20-23 | Mar 11-21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\frac{2010}{30}$ | $\frac{2010}{38}$ | $\frac{2010^{5}}{26}$ |
| 43 | 38 | 42 |
| 26 | 24 | 30 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.9=1,2):
Q. 10 From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

## BASED ON TOTAL:

| Jul 21-Aug 5 <br> $\frac{2010}{8}$ | Strongly agree | Jun 16-20 <br> May 20-23 | Mar 11-21 |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 14 | Agree | $\underline{9}$ | $\frac{2010}{10}$ | $\underline{2010}$ |
| 9 | Disagree | 15 | 15 | 9 |
| 9 | Strongly disagree | 10 | 8 | 15 |
| 37 | No opinion either way | 8 | 10 | 7 |
| 1 | Refused (VOL.) | 30 | 31 | 29 |
| 21 | Not heard of Tea Party/DK | 27 | 1 | 1 |

QUESTI ONS 11-58 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:
PARTY
In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?
ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent | (VOL.) <br> No preference | (VOL.) <br> Other <br> party | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | Lean Rep | Lean Dem |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 34 | 4 | * | 3 | 14 | 14 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 27 | 34 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 13 |
| Apr 8-11, 2010 | 23 | 32 | 38 | 5 | * | 2 | 17 | 13 |
| Apr 1-5, 2010 | 24 | 29 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 15 |
| Mar 18-21, 2010 | 24 | 30 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 13 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 28 | 34 | 32 | 3 | * | 3 | 13 | 12 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 37 | 6 | * | 3 | 14 | 13 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 26 | 31 | 37 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 42 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 16 |
| Dec 9-13, 2009 | 25 | 32 | 38 | 2 | * | 2 | 14 | 15 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 27 | 35 | 32 | 3 | * | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 23 | 34 | 37 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 |
| Sep 10-15, 2009 | 23 | 34 | 34 | 4 | * | 5 | 13 | 17 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 16 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 23 | 33 | 38 | 3 | * | 3 | 16 | 15 |
| Jul 22-26, 2009 | 22 | 34 | 37 | 5 | * | 2 | 15 | 14 |
| Jun 10-14, 2009 | 25 | 34 | 34 | 3 | * | 3 | 11 | 16 |
| Yearly Totals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2009 | 23.9 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 3.4 | . 4 | 2.8 | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 25.3 | 35.8 | 31.7 | 3.8 | . 3 | 3.1 | 10.5 | 15.4 |
| 2007 | 25.4 | 32.9 | 33.7 | 4.6 | . 4 | 3.1 | 10.7 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 27.6 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 5.0 | . 4 | 3.9 | 10.2 | 14.5 |
| 2005 | 29.2 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 4.5 | . 3 | 2.8 | 10.2 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 29.8 | 3.9 | . 4 | 2.9 | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003 | 29.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 4.7 | . 5 | 2.5 | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| 2002 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 30.1 | 5.1 | . 7 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 11.6 |
| 2001 | 29.2 | 33.6 | 28.9 | 5.1 | . 5 | 2.7 | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | . 6 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 28.2 | 34.6 | 29.5 | 5.0 | . 5 | 2.1 | 11.7 | 12.5 |
| 2000 | 27.5 | 32.5 | 29.5 | 5.9 | . 5 | 4.0 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | . 5 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.5 | 33.2 | 31.9 | 4.6 | . 4 | 2.4 | 11.8 | 13.5 |
| 1997 | 28.2 | 33.3 | 31.9 | 4.0 | . 4 | 2.3 | 12.3 | 13.8 |
| 1996 | 29.2 | 32.7 | 33.0 | 5.2 | -- | -- | 12.7 | 15.6 |
| 1995 | 31.4 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 5.4 | -- | -- | 14.4 | 12.9 |
| 1994 | 29.8 | 31.8 | 33.8 | 4.6 | -- | -- | 14.3 | 12.6 |
| 1993 | 27.4 | 33.8 | 34.0 | 4.8 | -- | -- | 11.8 | 14.7 |
| 1992 | 27.7 | 32.7 | 35.7 | 3.9 | -- | -- | 13.8 | 15.8 |
| 1991 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.2 | 4.5 | -- | -- | 14.6 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 31.0 | 33.1 | 29.1 | 6.8 | -- | -- | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33 | 33 | 34 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1987 | 26 | 35 | 39 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS I NTEREST I NDEX AUGUST 5-8, 2010 OMNI BUS <br> FI NAL TOPLI NE <br> $\mathrm{N}=1002$ 

ASK ALL:
Now thinking about Barack Obama...
PEW. 4 What ONE WORD best describes your impression of Barack Obama? Just the one word that best describes him. [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].



[^0]:    2 November 1996 trends based on likely voters.
    3 Question began with "Thinking ahead to November," on June 16-20, 2010 and March 11-21, 2010 surveys. Surveys prior to March 2010 did not ask specifically about voting in the "Congressional election."
    $4 \quad I^{n}$ Mid-October 2008 and from Mid-October 2004 to November 2006 and in Early November 2002, the "Yes, Plan to vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted. In November 2006, Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

