

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
DECEMBER 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
DECEMBER 8-13, 2015
N=1,500**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 7, 11, 15-16 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 8-10, 12-14, 17-19****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the 2016 presidential election...

Q.20 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2016? **[READ]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 8-13, 2015	48	26	12	12	1
Sep 22-27, 2015	39	26	17	17	1
May 12-18, 2015	25	33	21	20	1
Mar 25-29, 2015	22	28	26	23	1

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**2012 Presidential Election**

Feb 8-12, 2012 ¹	44	25	16	13	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	27	19	16	1
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	30	18	19	1
Nov 9-14, 2011	36	26	21	15	1
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	29	29	22	19	2
Aug 17-21, 2011	27	30	23	18	1
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	29	27	23	1
May 25-30, 2011	23	30	27	19	1

2008 Presidential Election

February, 2008	48	29	10	11	2
January, 2008	44	32	11	11	2
December, 2007	35	33	13	18	1
November, 2007	34	35	16	14	1
October, 2007	30	37	17	14	2
September, 2007	27	33	21	17	2
July, 2007	30	38	16	15	1
June, 2007	29	34	20	16	1
April, 2007	26	34	21	17	2
March, 2007	24	36	20	18	2
February, 2007	24	34	22	18	2
December, 2006	23	36	20	20	1

NO QUESTION 21

¹ In 2011 and 2012, question read: "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2012?" In 2006, 2007 and 2008, question read "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2008?"

ASK ALL:

Q.22 Overall, how would you describe the presidential election campaign so far – is it **[READ ITEM a. FIRST, THEN RANDOMIZE ITEMS b. THRU e.]**

a.		<u>Interesting</u>	<u>Dull</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	Dec 8-13, 2015	67	26	4	3
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
2012 Presidential Election					
	Oct 18-21, 2012	63	28	5	4
	Sep 7-9, 2012	53	37	5	6
	Jun 21-24, 2012	34	56	4	5
	Mar 22-25, 2012	38	52	4	7
	Jan 12-15, 2012	36	55	3	5
	Oct 20-23, 2011	35	51	4	10
2008 Presidential Election					
	Oct 10-13, 2008	71	25	3	1
	Sep 12-15, 2008	68	26	5	1
	Apr 18-21, 2008	59	35	5	1
	Feb 15-18, 2008	70	25	4	1
	October, 2007	37	55	5	3
	April, 2007	34	52	6	8
2004 Presidential Election					
	Mid-October, 2004 (RV)	66	28	5	1
	Early September, 2004 (RV)	50	42	6	2
	June, 2004	33	57	4	6
2000 Presidential Election					
	June, 2000	28	65	4	3
1996 Presidential Election					
	July, 1996	21	73	3	3
b.		<u>Too negative</u>	<u>Not too negative</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	Dec 8-13, 2015	54	39	2	4
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
2012 Presidential Election					
	Oct 18-21, 2012	55	37	3	5
	Sep 7-9, 2012	51	39	3	6
	Jun 21-24, 2012	53	37	3	8
	Mar 22-25, 2012	52	34	3	11
	Jan 12-15, 2012	50	41	1	7
	Oct 20-23, 2011	44	41	4	11
2008 Presidential Election					
	Oct 10-13, 2008	55	41	3	1
	Sep 12-15, 2008	43	51	4	2
	Apr 18-21, 2008	50	44	4	2
	Feb 15-18, 2008	28	66	3	3
2004 Presidential Election					
	Mid-October, 2004 (RV)	57	38	3	2
	Early September, 2004 (RV)	62	32	1	5
	June, 2004	45	46	2	7
	Mid-March, 2004	47	47	2	4

Q.22 CONTINUED...

	<u>Informative</u>	Not <u>informative</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Dec 8-13, 2015	48	47	2	3
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
2012 Presidential Election				
Oct 18-21, 2012	59	34	2	4
Sep 7-9, 2012	53	39	2	6
Jun 21-24, 2012	40	52	1	6
Mar 22-25, 2012	40	50	1	8
Jan 12-15, 2012	48	45	2	6
Oct 20-23, 2011	40	49	2	9
2008 Presidential Election				
Oct 10-13, 2008	63	34	2	1
Sep 12-15, 2008	54	41	3	2
Feb 15-18, 2008	65	31	2	2
2004 Presidential Election				
Mid-October, 2004 (RV)	73	22	3	2
Early September, 2004 (RV)	63	33	1	3
June, 2004	48	46	2	4
Mid-March, 2004	53	42	2	3
	<u>Too long</u>	Not <u>too long</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
d. Dec 8-13, 2015	50	43	2	5
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
2012 Presidential Election				
Oct 18-21, 2012	49	43	4	3
Sep 7-9, 2012	50	41	3	6
Jun 21-24, 2012	56	35	2	7
Mar 22-25, 2012	58	31	3	8
Jan 12-15, 2012	57	35	2	6
Oct 20-23, 2011	50	39	2	9
2008 Presidential Election				
Oct 10-13, 2008	57	39	3	1
Apr 18-21, 2008	65	29	5	1
Feb 15-18, 2008	57	40	*	3
October, 2007	66	28	3	3
April, 2007	59	32	3	6
2004 Presidential Election				
Mid-October, 2004 (RV)	51	43	3	2
Early September, 2004 (RV)	53	42	2	3
June, 2004	52	42	2	4
Mid-March, 2004	52	44	1	3
	Focused on important policy <u>debates</u>	Not focused on important policy <u>debates</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
e. Dec 8-13, 2015	34	58	2	6

ASK ALL:

Q.23 So far, have you watched any of the televised debates between presidential candidates or haven't you had a chance to watch any of them?

Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>		Dec <u>2007</u>	Jul <u>2007</u>
69	Yes	43	40
31	No	57	59
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**Republican debates**

Jan 4-8 <u>2012</u> ²		Oct 13-16 <u>2011</u>
40	Yes	27
60	No	73
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

Democratic debates

Jan <u>2004</u>		Feb <u>1992</u>
20	Yes	16
80	No	84
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

RANDOMIZE Q.24 AND Q.25**ASK IF WATCHED DEBATES (Q.23=1) [N=1,088]:**

Q.24 Have you found the debates to be helpful in learning about the candidates, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL: WATCHERS:

Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>	Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>	
44	65	Yes
23	34	No
1	2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
31	--	<i>Haven't watched any debates</i>

BASED ON WATCHERS:

Oct 13-16 <u>2011</u>	Jul <u>2007</u> ³
61	66
38	33
1	1
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N 1,500 1,088 306 647

RANDOMIZE Q.24 AND Q.25**ASK IF WATCHED DEBATES (Q.23=1) [N=1,088]:**

Q.25 Have you found the debates to be fun to watch, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL: WATCHERS:

Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>	Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>	
35	51	Yes
32	46	No
2	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

BASED ON WATCHERS:

Jul <u>2007</u> ⁴
47
51
2

N 1,500 1,088 647

² In January, 2012 and October, 2011 the question referred only to Republican debates. In December, 2007 this question asked about watching any of presidential debates and then followed up with whether those were Democratic debates, Republican debates or both. In July, 2007 the question referred to "any of the televised debates between presidential candidates". In 1992 and 2004, the question referred only to Democratic debates.

³ In July, 2007 this question referred to "any of the televised debates between presidential candidates."

⁴ In July, 2007 this question referred to "any of the televised debates between presidential candidates."

QUESTIONS 26-28, 30-31, 40-48, 51, 59-63, 69-71, 81-85, 90-92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 29, 32-39, 49-50, 52-58, 64-68, 72-80, 86-89****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Dec 8-13, 2015	26	31	37	4	*	2	16	15
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	24	29	41	4	*	2	17	17
Sep 22-27, 2015	26	30	40	2	*	2	15	16
Jul 14-20, 2015	22	32	41	4	*	1	15	19
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--