



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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Public's Policy Priorities: 1994-2013

Deficit Reduction Rises on Public's Agenda for Obama's Second Term

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Public's Policy Priorities: 1994-2013

Deficit Reduction Rises on Public's Agenda for Obama's Second Term

When Barack Obama took office four years ago, reducing the budget deficit was a middle-tier item on the public's agenda. Only about half of Americans (53%) viewed it as a top policy priority in January 2009, placing it ninth on a list of 20 policy goals.

But as Obama begins his second term, only the economy and jobs are viewed as more important priorities for the coming year. Currently, 72% say that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority, up 19 points from four years ago.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 9-13, 2013 among 1,502 adults, finds that Americans continue to view other domestic initiatives as important priorities as well, despite their focus on the deficit. Growing numbers give high priority to dealing with education, the problems of the poor, crime and the environment.

Fully 70% say that improving the educational system should be a top priority, up from 61% in January 2009. And 57% rate dealing with the problems of the poor and needy as a top priority; four years ago, 50% viewed this as a top priority.

The survey finds that 52% view protecting the environment as a top policy priority, up 11 points from January 2009. However, dealing with global warming remains at the bottom of the public's agenda for 2013; just 28% see this as a top priority, little changed from recent years.

Gun control also ranks relatively low on the public's priority list; just 37% rate it as a top priority, 18th out of 21 policy goals tested. This item was last asked in 2001, when support for

Public's Policy Priorities for 2013

	4 years ago	1 year ago	Now	4- year chg
<i>% saying each is a "top priority" for president and Congress this year</i>	Jan 2009	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	
	%	%	%	
Strengthening economy	85	86	86	+1
Improving job situation	82	82	79	-3
Reducing budget deficit	53	69	72	+19
Defending against terrorism	76	69	71	-5
Making Social Security financially sound	63	68	70	+7
Improving education	61	65	70	+9
Making Medicare financially sound	60	61	65	+5
Reducing health costs	59	60	63	+4
Helping poor and needy	50	52	57	+7
Reducing crime	46	48	55	+9
Reforming tax system	--	--	52	--
Protecting environment	41	43	52	+11
Dealing w/ energy problem	60	52	45	-15
Reducing influence of lobbyists	36	40	44	+8
Strengthening the military	44	39	41	-3
Dealing w/moral breakdown	45	44	40	-5
Dealing w/ illegal immigration	41	39	39	-2
Strengthening gun laws	--	--	37	--
Dealing w/ global trade	31	38	31	0
Improving infrastructure	--	30	30	--
Dealing w/ global warming	30	25	28	-2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Significant differences in **bold**.

gun control was much broader nationwide, and 47% rated it as a top priority. However, reducing crime has become a more important policy priority in the past year; 55% rate this as a top priority, up seven points since last January and the highest percentage since 2007.

The public also continues to view the financial security of Social Security and Medicare as major goals. While 70% say taking steps to make Social Security financially sound should be a top priority, a comparable percentage (65%) says the same about making Medicare financially sound.

The survey finds that energy has slipped as a policy priority since Obama took office. Currently, 45% say that dealing with the nation's energy problems should be a top priority, down from 60% four years ago.

Partisan Differences over Priorities

As in past Pew Research policy priority surveys, Republicans and Democrats offer differing views about the importance of many of the country's most pressing issues.

Broad majorities of Republicans and Democrats see the economy and jobs as top priorities. And more than seven-in-ten Republicans (74%) and Democrats (72%) say making the Social Security system financially sound should be a top priority, though they may have different views about how to do so.

There is far less consensus on other issues, with some of the

largest differences over the environment, gun control, and health care. Nearly seven-in-ten Democrats (69%) say protecting the environment should be a top priority compared with just

Widest Partisan Gaps Over Environment, Gun Control, Health Care

	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>% considering each as a "top priority"</i>	%	%	%	
Protecting the environment	32	69	49	-37
Strengthening gun control laws	22	56	32	-34
Reducing health care costs	46	79	63	-33
Dealing with problems of the poor	46	71	53	-25
Dealing with global warming	13	38	31	-25
Reducing crime	44	63	55	-19
Improving educational system	64	80	68	-16
Improving roads, bridges, transportation	24	36	29	-12
Making Medicare financially sound	62	73	61	-11
Reducing the influence of lobbyists	39	49	43	-10
Reforming nation's tax system	48	57	51	-9
Improving job situation	77	84	75	-7
Dealing with global trade	30	33	30	-3
Strengthening nation's economy	89	89	84	0
Dealing with nation's energy problem	45	45	46	0
Making Social Security financially sound	74	72	67	+2
Defending against terrorism	80	72	64	+8
Dealing with illegal immigration	44	35	40	+9
Dealing with moral breakdown	50	34	40	+16
Reducing budget deficit	84	67	71	+17
Strengthening the military	58	31	38	+27

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30. Significant differences in **bold**.

32% of Republicans. Democrats also are much more likely to emphasize strengthening gun controls laws (56%) and reducing health care costs (79%) than are Republicans (22% and 46%, respectively).

By contrast, Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to say strengthening the military is a top priority (58% vs. 31%). Republicans also are 17 points more likely than Democrats to say the budget deficit is a top priority, though a majority of Democrats (67%) also give the deficit top priority.

Democrats view more issues as top priorities than do Republicans. Across the 21 issues tested, majorities of Democrats say 13 are top priorities for the president and Congress. Among Republicans, majorities consider eight issues as top priorities.

Deficit Concerns Increase

The budget deficit has increased as a priority since 2009 among Democrats, independents and especially Republicans. Currently, 84% of Republicans say that deficit reduction should be a top priority. While that is unchanged from last year, it is 33 points higher than four years ago, when just 51% of Republicans viewed reducing the deficit as a top priority.

Democrats and independents also rate the deficit as a more important priority than they did in January 2009, though the increases have been smaller. Currently, 67% of Democrats view deficit reduction as a top priority, up from 52% four years ago; the increase among independents has been comparable (71% now, 57%).

For the last few years more Republicans than Democrats have rated reducing the deficit as a top policy priority, but this represents a reversal from the Bush administration, when Democrats typically viewed the deficit as a more important issue. At the start of George W. Bush's second term

Republicans, Democrats Trade Places on Deficit

<i>% rating deficit "top priority"</i>	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
	%	%	%	
Jan 2013	84	67	71	+17
Jan 2012	84	66	62	+18
Jan 2011	68	61	65	+7
Jan 2010	61	60	60	+1
Jan 2009	51	52	57	-1
Jan 2008	52	64	57	-12
Jan 2007	42	57	53	-15
Jan 2006	45	62	56	-17
Jan 2005	48	64	54	-16
Jan 2004	44	57	55	-13
Jan 2003	38	48	33	-10
Jan 2002	27	41	38	-14
Jan 2001*	49	55	58	-6
Jan 2000*	39	41	50	-2
Jan 1999*	42	42	43	0
Jan 1998*	54	38	47	+16
Jan 1997	66	54	62	+12
Dec 1994	65	61	68	+4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30b.

* From 1998 to 2001 question asked about "paying off the national debt" rather than "reducing the budget deficit." Significant differences in **bold**.

in January 2005, for instance, 64% of Democrats and 48% of Republicans said that reducing the budget deficit should be a major priority for the president and Congress.

By contrast, during the Clinton administration, more Republicans viewed deficit reduction as a top policy objective. In January 1997, at the start of Bill Clinton's second term, 66% of Republicans said reducing the deficit should be a top priority, compared with 54% of Democrats.

Gun Control a Lower Priority than in 2001

Currently, 37% rate strengthening the nation's gun laws as a top policy priority. In 2001, that last time this item was included on a January priorities survey, 47% viewed this as a top policy priority.

More than half of Democrats (56%) give top priority to strengthening gun control laws compared with 32% of independents and just 22% of Republicans. Since 2001, the priority given to gun control laws has fallen by 12 points each among Republicans and independents while remaining more stable among Democrats; 61% of Democrats viewed gun control as a top priority in 2001, about the same percentage as today (56%).

Women (42%) are somewhat more likely than men (33%) to call gun control a top priority. However, smaller percentages of both women and men view gun control as a top priority than did so at the start of George W. Bush's first term.

The current survey finds that views of the importance of strengthening gun laws are correlated with gun ownership and opinions about whether it is more important to control gun ownership or to protect gun rights. Nearly half (47%) of those who do not have a gun in their household view strengthening gun laws as a top priority, compared with 24% of those who do. And while 61% of those who say gun control is more important than gun rights prioritize stronger gun laws, just 12% of those who say it is more important to protect gun rights do so. For more on opinions about gun control, see "[In Gun Control Debate, Several Options Draw Majority Support.](#)" Jan. 14, 2013.

Partisan, Gender Differences in Views of Gun Control as Priority

% top priority for strengthening gun control laws	2001	2013	Change
Total	47	37	-10
Men	41	33	-8
Women	53	42	-11
18-29	53	33	-20
30-49	45	33	-12
50-64	40	41	+1
65+	55	46	-9
College grad+	39	35	-4
Some college	40	32	-8
HS or less	51	44	-7
\$75,000 or more	26	31	+5
\$30,000-75,000	45	30	-15
Less than \$30,000	56	49	-7
Republican	34	22	-12
Independent	44	32	-12
Democrat	61	56	-5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30u. Significant changes in **bold**.

Environment, Energy and Global Warming

Currently, 52% of Americans say protecting the environment should be a top priority, up nine points from last year. But that is still lower than the high of 63% who said the environment should be a top priority in 2001.

At the same time, the percentage saying that dealing with the nation's energy problems should be a top priority has slipped from 52% to 45% since last year. For the first time in five years, energy now ranks slightly lower than the environment on the public's list of priorities.

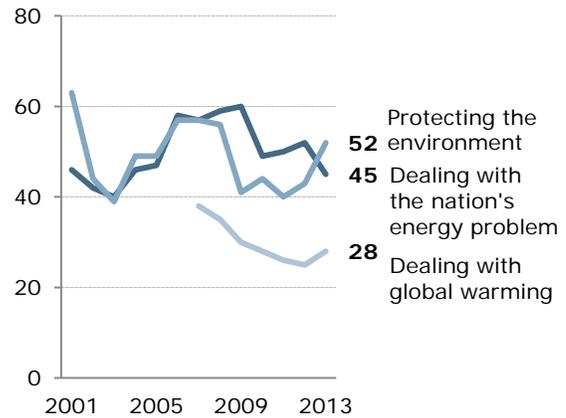
Dealing with global warming ranks at the bottom of the public's priority list. Just 28% say it should be a top priority for the president and Congress, little changed from 2012.

More Democrats and independents say the environment should be a top priority than did so a year ago. Fully 69% of Democrats say that, up 11 points from last year. About half (49%) of independents think environmental protection should be a top priority, up somewhat from 40% in 2012. Just 32% of Republicans say that protecting the environment should be a top priority, little changed from a year ago. The 37-point partisan gap on this issue is among the largest for all the policy priorities.

There also is a wide partisan gap over whether global warming should be a major priority. Just 13% of Republicans say dealing with global warming should be a top priority, compared with 38% of Democrats. This is among the lowest priority items for Democrats and Republicans.

More independents think global warming should be a top priority (31%) than did so a year ago (21%).

More View Environmental Protection as Top Policy Priority



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Democrats, Independents More Likely to Prioritize Environment

	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Change
	%	%	
Protecting the environment	43	52	+9
Republican	27	32	+5
Democrat	58	69	+11
Independent	40	49	+9
Dealing with the nation's energy problems	52	45	-7
Republican	55	45	-10
Democrat	57	45	-12
Independent	46	46	0
Global warming	25	28	+3
Republican	11	13	+2
Democrat	38	38	0
Independent	21	31	+10

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30e,s,t.
Significant changes in **bold**.

By contrast, there continues to be very little partisan difference on whether dealing with the nation's energy problems should be a top priority; 45% of both Republicans and Democrats say this.

More Republicans View Stronger Military as Top Priority

Far more Republicans view strengthening the U.S. military as a top policy priority than did so a year ago. In the current survey, 58% of Republicans say this, up from 46% in January 2012. By comparison, 38% of independents and just 31% of Democrats say strengthening the military should be a top priority; both percentages are little changed from January 2012.

Over the past decade, Republicans have consistently been much more likely than Democrats to view strengthening the military as a top policy goal. In January 2009, 64% of Republicans and just 38% of Democrats said strengthening the military should be a top priority for the president and Congress. But those differences narrowed considerably in 2011 and 2012, before widening again this year.

Strengthening the U.S. Military

	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>% "top priority"</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Jan 2013	58	31	38	+17
Jan 2012	46	37	36	+9
Jan 2011	51	45	39	+6
Jan 2010	64	44	47	+20
Jan 2009	64	38	41	+26
Jan 2008	62	37	34	+25
Jan 2007	56	42	45	+14
Jan 2006	56	34	39	+22
Jan 2005	62	48	47	+14
Jan 2004	61	43	42	+18
Jan 2003	59	41	43	+18
Jan 2002	68	50	41	+18
Jan 2001	63	38	41	+25

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30r. Significant differences in **bold**.

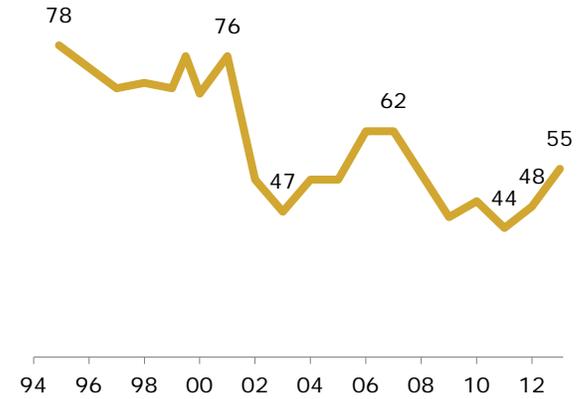
Crime Concerns Increase

A majority of Americans (55%) view reducing crime as a top priority for the president and Congress. This represents a sharp increase from recent years. In 2011, just 44% said crime was a top priority. While up over the past two years, the percentage calling crime a top priority still pales in comparison to the percentages saying this in the 1990s and early 2000s. In 1994, for example, 78% said reducing crime should be a top priority, making it first among the items tested on that survey.

The rise in crime as a top priority has taken place among Democrats and independents, while Republican views are little changed. About six-in-ten Democrats (63%) say crime should be a top priority, up 17 points from 2011. More than half of independents (55%) give top priority to reducing crime, up 11 points over the last two years. By contrast, just 44% of Republicans give high priority to reducing crime, unchanged from January 2011. As a result of these shifts, the gap between Democrats and Republicans is now as large as it has ever been, at 19 points.

Crime Rebounds as Top Priority

% saying reducing crime is a top priority



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More Democrats Prioritize Reducing Crime

% rating reducing crime "top priority"	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
	%	%	%	
Jan 2013	44	63	55	-19
Jan 2012	47	55	45	-8
Jan 2011	44	46	44	-2
Jan 2010	46	55	46	-9
Jan 2009	41	47	47	-6
Jan 2008	49	62	50	-13
Jan 2007	56	69	57	-13
Jan 2006	62	67	56	-5
Jan 2005	49	54	55	-5
Jan 2004	51	60	53	-9
Jan 2003	44	49	47	-5
Jan 2002	50	59	49	-9
Jan 2001	69	82	72	-13
Jan 2000	67	75	65	-8
Jan 1999	67	73	68	-6
Jan 1998	68	74	69	-6
Jan 1997	64	70	73	-6
Dec 1994	80	77	78	+3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30c. Significant differences in **bold**.

Public's Policy Priorities During Obama and Bush Presidencies

<i>% considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2001	Jan 2005	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	12-13 change
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Strengthening nation's economy	81	75	85	83	87	86	86	0
Improving job situation	60	68	82	81	84	82	79	-3
Reducing budget deficit	--	56	53	60	64	69	72	+3
Defending against terrorism	--	75	76	80	73	69	71	+2
Securing Social Security	74	70	63	66	66	68	70	+2
Improving education	78	70	61	65	66	65	70	+5
Securing Medicare	71	67	60	63	61	61	65	+4
Reducing health care costs	--	--	59	57	61	60	63	+3
Dealing with problems of the poor and needy	63	59	50	53	52	52	57	+5
Reducing crime	76	53	46	49	44	48	55	+7
Reforming tax system	--	--	--	--	--	--	52	--
Protecting environment	63	49	41	44	40	43	52	+9
Dealing with nation's energy problem	--	47	60	49	50	52	45	-7
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	36	36	37	40	44	+4
Strengthening the military	48	52	44	49	43	39	41	+2
Dealing with moral breakdown in country	51	41	45	45	43	44	40	-4
Dealing with illegal immigration	--	--	41	40	46	39	39	0
Strengthening gun control laws	47	--	--	--	--	--	37	--
Dealing with global trade	37	32	31	32	34	38	31	-7
Improving roads, bridges, and public transportation	--	--	--	--	33	30	30	0
Dealing with global warming	--	--	30	28	26	25	28	+3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q30.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 9-13, 2013 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (752 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 750 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 369 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is 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 2012 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,502	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	727	4.2 percentage points
Form 2	775	4.1 percentage points
Republicans	403	5.7 percentage points
Democrats	473	5.2 percentage points
Independents	557	4.8 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
January 9-13, 2013
N=1,502

QUESTION 1-2, 9-12, 16-18, 20-22, PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 3-8, 13-15, 19, 26-29

QUESTIONS 23-25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.30 I'd like to ask you about priorities for President Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **[INSERT ITEM]?) [REPEAT AS NECESSARY TO BE SURE RESPONDENT UNDERSTANDS SCALE: should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?]**

<u>SUMMARY TABLE</u>		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
I.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	86	11	1	1	1
a.F1	Improving the job situation	79	16	2	3	1
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	72	20	3	2	3
h.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	71	22	5	1	1
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	70	24	2	1	2
m.F2	Improving the educational system	70	22	4	2	2
o.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	65	29	3	2	2
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	63	26	4	5	2
p.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	57	32	6	3	2
c.F1	Reducing crime	55	33	9	2	1
e.F1	Protecting the environment	52	33	10	3	2
d.F1	Reforming the nation's tax system	52	32	7	3	6
s.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	45	41	9	2	2
j.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	44	29	18	4	6
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	41	36	14	7	2
q.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	40	30	12	11	6
g.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	39	40	13	4	3
u.	Strengthening gun control laws	37	26	12	21	3
i.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	31	47	15	2	6
k.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems	30	51	16	2	2
t.F2	Dealing with global warming	28	36	18	14	4

FULL TREND:

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
ASK ITEMS a THRU j OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=727]:						
a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	79	16	2	3	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	82	14	1	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	84	13	*	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	81	15	1	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	82	15	1	1	1
	January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2

Q.30 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1
January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1
January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1
January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2
January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4
July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3
January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4
January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1
January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1
December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2
b.F1 Reducing the budget deficit					
Jan 9-13, 2013	72	20	3	2	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	69	21	5	2	3
Jan 5-9, 2011	64	27	3	2	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	60	29	5	2	4
Jan 7-11, 2009	53	33	7	2	4
January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3
January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4
January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4
January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3
January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2
January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3
January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5
January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3
December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Paying off the national debt</i>					
January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4
January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4
July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2
January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4
January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2
c.F1 Reducing crime					
Jan 9-13, 2013	55	33	9	2	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	48	37	11	2	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	44	43	10	2	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	8	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	46	41	9	2	2
January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2
January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1
January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2
January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1
January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2
January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2
January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2
January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*
January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2
July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1
January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2
January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1
January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*
December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2

Q.30 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
d.F1	Reforming the nation's tax system Jan 9-13, 2013	52	32	7	3	6
e.F1	Protecting the environment					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	52	33	10	3	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	43	39	15	3	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	40	44	12	3	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	44	42	11	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	42	12	3	2
	January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*
	January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1
f.F1	Reducing health care costs					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	63	26	4	5	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	60	30	4	5	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	28	4	4	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	57	31	5	4	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	59	30	5	4	2
	January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
	January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3
g.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	39	40	13	4	3
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	38	17	4	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	38	12	3	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2
h.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	71	22	5	1	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	69	25	5	1	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	73	22	3	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2

Q.30 CONTINUED...

		Top <u>priority</u>	Important but lower <u>priority</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1
	January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1
i.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	31	47	15	2	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	38	40	14	4	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	34	44	13	3	5
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	46	12	4	7
	Jan 7-11, 2009	31	49	11	2	7
	January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6
	January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7
j.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	44	29	18	4	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	40	31	18	5	6
	Jan 5-9, 2011	37	31	19	6	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	36	34	18	7	6
	Jan 7-11, 2009	36	34	18	5	7
	January, 2008	39	32	16	4	9
	January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8
ASK ITEMS k THRU t FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:						
k.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	30	51	16	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	30	52	15	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2
l.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	86	11	1	1	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	86	11	1	1	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	87	11	1	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	83	14	1	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	85	12	*	1	1
	January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1
	January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1
	Early September, 2001 ¹	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1

¹ In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

Q.30 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
m.F2	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	70	22	4	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	65	27	4	3	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	5	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	65	28	4	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	61	30	5	2	2
	January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2
	January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	70	24	2	1	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	68	26	2	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	4	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	66	28	3	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2
	January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1
	January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1
o.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	65	29	3	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	61	31	5	1	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	31	4	2	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	63	30	4	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	60	33	4	1	2
	January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*
	January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2

Q.30 CONTINUED...

		Top <u>priority</u>	Important but lower <u>priority</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1
p.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	57	32	6	3	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	52	36	8	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	52	36	8	2	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	53	38	6	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	3	2
	January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3
	January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1
	January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1
	January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*
q.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	40	30	12	11	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	44	30	11	10	5
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	30	12	9	6
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	31	13	7	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	45	29	16	6	4
	January, 2008	43	31	13	8	5
	January, 2007	47	30	12	8	3
	January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3
	January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	41	36	14	7	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	36	15	8	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	35	14	6	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	35	10	5	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	44	39	8	4	5
	January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3
	January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2
	January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2

Q.30 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
s.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	45	41	9	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	52	38	6	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	50	39	7	2	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	7	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	59	32	6	1	2
	January, 2007	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3
	January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3
	Early September, 2001 ²	46	41	6	2	5
t.F2	Dealing with global warming					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	28	36	18	14	4
	Jan 11-16, 2012	25	35	20	16	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	26	35	21	14	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	28	36	20	14	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	30	37	19	10	4
	January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5
	January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4

ASK ALL:

u.	Strengthening gun control laws					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	37	26	12	21	3
	January, 2001	47	24	11	16	2
	January, 2000	46	25	16	11	2
	July, 1999	51	23	11	12	3

QUESTIONS 31-32 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTION 33, 37-39, 44-49, 52****QUESTIONS 34-36, 40-43, 50-51, 53-54 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****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?

				(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	Republican	Democrat	Independent					
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17

² In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Yearly Totals								
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	--	--	--	--	--