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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Press Coverage of Nomination Seen as Fair
FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF SOTOMAYOR MOSTLY POSITIVE

Americans who have learned at least a little about Judge Sonia Sotomayor are more likely to offer traits or aspects they like about President Obama’s first Supreme Court nominee than things they do not like about the federal appellate court judge from New York.

Asked if there was anything they have learned that they like about Sotomayor, 45% offered responses, most frequently citing her background and experience, her gender and her ethnicity. Asked if they had learned anything they *dislike* about her, a smaller share (26%) offered responses, with relatively small percentages citing allegations that she is racially biased (7%) or a judicial activist (5%).

Still, large shares of Americans either offer no answer to the question (29% on what they like; 48% on what they dislike) or say they have not yet learned anything about the woman who would be the first Hispanic justice on the nation’s top court (26%).

Obama announced on May 26 that he had chosen Sotomayor, a Puerto Rican woman who grew up in the Bronx and went on to Yale Law

Anything you’ve learned that you LIKE about Sotomayor?	
	All adults %
Yes, named something	45
Background/Experience	20
Her gender	11
Hispanic/minority	9
Personal Character	8
Brings diversity to the court	1
Position on abortion	1
Her judgments/decisions	1
Everything about her	*
Other	10
No/Nothing	29
Haven’t learned anything yet	26
N=	1,001
Anything you’ve learned that you DISLIKE about Sotomayor?	
	All adults %
Yes, named something	26
Racial bias	7
Judicial activism	5
Other issues (not race/activism)	3
Background/experience	2
Too liberal	2
Inappropriate statements	2
Everything about her	2
Her gender	1
Other	6
No/Nothing	48
Haven’t learned anything yet	26
N=	1,001

Questions asked of those who say they have learned at least a little about Sotomayor. Figures include those who say they have learned “nothing” about her so percentages are based on total. Specific mentions of likes and dislikes add to more than the percentage of those who offered an answer to each question because of multiple response.

School, to replace retiring Justice David Souter. The responses to the questions on the latest weekly News Interest Index survey, conducted May 29-June 1 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, indicate that many of the first impressions of Sotomayor, not surprisingly, reflect the main arguments of those backing her nomination and those who have raised concerns.

About three-in-ten Americans (29%) say they followed news about the nomination very closely. That is the highest share following the unveiling of a Supreme Court choice very closely since the nomination of Clarence Thomas by President George H.W. Bush in 1991 (33% followed very closely).

The nomination dominated media coverage, taking up 24% of the newshole analyzed by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. PEJ also found that Sotomayor was the top newsmaker for the week, playing a leading role in 14% of stories. Obama was the lead newsmaker in 7% of stories analyzed by PEJ, the lowest total since he took office.

Still, the Supreme Court pick had to contend with other major stories – such as the continuing troubles facing the economy and General Motors' preparations for bankruptcy – for the public's attention. One-in-five say they followed news about the U.S. economy more closely than other top stories, while 18% say they followed developments involving the GM bankruptcy most closely. Most of the polling took place before GM filed for bankruptcy on June 1. Meanwhile, 15% say they followed reports about Sotomayor's nomination more closely than any other major story. That is the same share that say they followed reports about North Korea testing nuclear weapons and missiles most closely.

Close to two-in-ten (18%) say they learned a lot about Sotomayor following the nomination, while 33% say they learned some and 24% say they learned just a little. Still, a quarter say they learned nothing at all about Sotomayor.

Likes and Dislikes

Fewer than half of the public offered things they like or dislike about Sotomayor, evidence that many people are still learning about the nominee. But the positive responses indicate that Sotomayor's biography may be her strongest asset.

When asked to cite what they like about her from what they had read or heard so far, two-in-ten cite aspects of her personal background and experience, with the largest share (7%) citing her life story. In this category, smaller percentages cite her experience, her qualifications, her education or her legal background.

About one-in-ten cite her gender (11%) or her ethnic heritage (9%). Another 8% cite personal characteristics, such as intelligence, honesty or her attitude.

When asked to cite what they did not like about her from what they had read or heard so far, the most frequent responses represent worries about Sotomayor’s approach to serving as a judge and her attitudes about race. Out of the total survey, 7% cite concerns about her racial attitudes. That amounts to about a quarter of those offering something they dislike about her.

Within that total share, 3% say Sotomayor is a racist, 2% cite her comments about a Latina judge making better decisions than a white male judge and 1% mention her ruling in a case – now before the Supreme Court – brought by white firefighters in New Haven, Conn., who felt they were wronged by city promotion decisions.

Another 5% cite concerns about whether she would be a “judicial activist,” with 2% of that group mentioning Sotomayor’s comments about appellate court judges making policy and another 2% saying they worried about how she would interpret the law.

Another 3% cite concerns about her position on certain issues, such as abortion or gun control, 2% say she is too liberal and 2% cite her experience and background. Of that last group, 1% say they do not trust her or feel she is not forthcoming.

Democrats are significantly more likely to say they learned something they like about Sotomayor (58%) than are Republicans (34%) or independents (40%). On the other hand, Republicans are much more likely to say they learned something they did not like (45%), compared with 12% for Democrats and 26% for independents.

Partisan Divide on Media Coverage of Sotomayor

A plurality of Americans (45%) say press coverage of the nomination has been fair. One-in-five say the coverage has not been critical enough, while 17% say it has been too critical.

Republicans, though, are significantly more likely to say the press has not been critical enough (36%). Still, close to four-in-ten (38%) say coverage has been fair and about one-in-ten (11%) say coverage has been too critical.

<i>Has press coverage of Sotomayor nomination to Supreme Court been...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Too critical	17	11	23	15
Not critical enough	20	36	7	22
Fair	45	38	54	42
Don't know	18	15	16	21

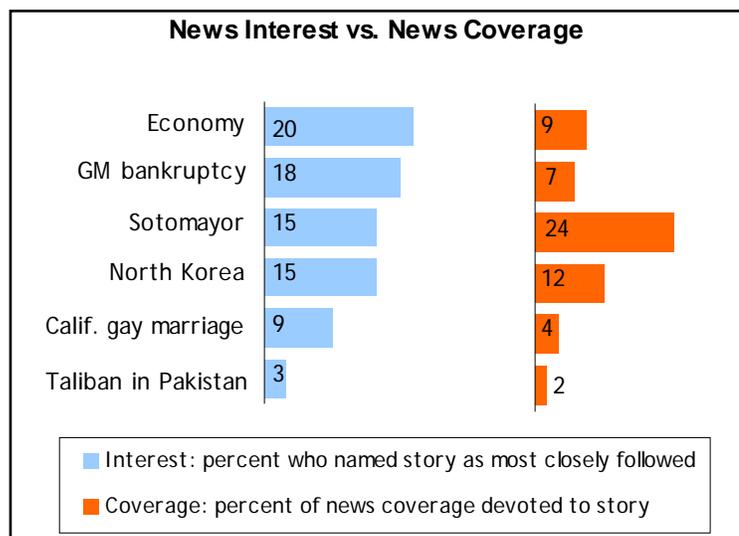
A majority of Democrats (54%) says the press has been fair in its coverage of the first Latina Supreme Court nominee. Close to a quarter (23%) of Democrats say the press has been too critical and only 7% say it has not been critical enough. Independents are much like the nation as a whole – 42% say press coverage has been fair, 15% say it has been too critical and 22% say it has not been critical enough.

Men and woman also had slightly different takes on press coverage. About two-in-ten women (21%) say the press has been too critical in reporting on Sotomayor, compared with 13% of men. About a quarter of men (26%) say the reporting has not been critical enough, compared with 15% of women. Still, substantial pluralities among both sexes see the reporting as fair: 48% of woman and 41% of men.

Top Stories

The public divided its attention among the top stories last week, though Americans say they followed news about the economy – and the fate of General Motors – most closely.

Two-in-ten say they followed news about the condition of the U.S. economy most closely among the leading stories. More than four-in-ten (43%) say they followed economic news very closely, comparable to the share following the economy very closely in recent weeks. According to PEJ, coverage of the economic crisis took up 9% of the newshole.



Close to two-in-ten (18%) say they followed reports about General Motors’ plans to file bankruptcy most closely. A third say they followed those stories very closely, while another 40% followed them fairly closely. Those numbers are similar to the share following American carmakers’ troubles in recent surveys. Stories about GM’s plans – the company filed for Chapter 11 on June 1 – and developments at Chrysler accounted for 7% of the newshole.

The Sotomayor nomination was the most closely followed story for 15% of the public. About three-in-ten (29%) say they followed the stories very closely, while a comparable share followed them fairly closely. Still, close to a quarter (23%) say they followed this story – the top story in terms of coverage -- not at all closely.

Meanwhile, 15% say they followed reports about North Korea's testing of nuclear weapons and missiles most closely. About a third (34%) followed those stories very closely, with 36% followed them fairly closely. That is the highest level of interest in reporting on North Korea's weapons machinations since Oct. 2006, when 45% said they were very closely following news about a nuclear weapons test. These stories made up 12% of coverage, according to PEJ.

About one-in-ten (9%) say they most closely followed the ruling by the California Supreme Court that upheld the state's ban on gay marriage. About two-in-ten (22%) say they followed that story very closely, while 35% followed it fairly closely. Close to a quarter (23%) say they did not follow it at all closely. Reporting on the fight over gay marriage in California made up 4% of the newshole.

Just 3% say the worsening military conflict between the Taliban and the Pakistani government was the story they followed most closely last week. Almost a quarter (23%) say they followed this story very closely, while 30% followed it fairly closely.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected from May 25-May 31, 2009 and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected May 29-June 1 from a nationally representative sample of 1,001 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events.

This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for the weekly surveys are based on telephone interviews among a nationwide sample of approximately 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, conducted under the direction of ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 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, and that results based on subgroups will have larger margins of error.

For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.

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:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2009 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
TOPLINE
N=1001

Q.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. The nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court	29	29	19	23	1
January, 2006 <i>Samuel Alito</i>	14	23	25	36	2
December, 2005	14	20	31	32	3
Early November, 2005	21	28	24	25	2
Early October, 2005 <i>Harriet Miers</i>	22	33	21	23	1
Early September, 2005 <i>John Roberts</i>	18	26	25	29	2
August, 1993 <i>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i>	18	30	27	24	1
October, 1991 <i>Clarence Thomas</i>	28	35	18	18	1
July, 1991 <i>Clarence Thomas</i>	33	33	19	14	1
August, 1990 <i>David Souter</i>	16	27	27	29	1
September, 1987 <i>Robert Bork</i>	17	23	29	29	2
b. The California Supreme Court upholding a ban on gay marriage	22	35	19	23	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:¹					
May 8-11, 2009: <i>Steps to legalize gay marriage in ME and NH</i>	16	16	22	45	1
April 9-13, 2009: <i>Gay marriage in IA & VT</i>	13	21	23	42	1
Nov. 7-10, 2008: <i>CA vote bans gay marriage</i>	18	26	24	32	*
June 20-23, 2008: <i>Same sex marriage in CA</i>	22	26	25	27	*
May 16-19, 2008: <i>CA Supreme Court ruling</i>	19	27	25	28	1
May 2004: <i>Gay marriage</i>	20	27	25	27	1
March 2004: <i>Gay marriage</i>	29	33	20	17	1
Early-February 2004: <i>Debate over gay marriage</i>	26	32	22	19	1
Mid-August 2003: <i>Debate over gay marriage</i>	19	30	22	28	1

¹ May 8-11, 2009, asked about: “Steps to legalize gay marriage in Maine and New Hampshire.” April 9-13, 2009, asked about: “The legalization of gay marriage in Iowa and Vermont.” November 7-10, 2008, asked about: “California voting to ban gay marriage.” June 20-23, 2008, asked about: “The issue of same sex marriage in California.” May 16-19, 2008, asked about: “The California Supreme Court’s decision giving same sex couples the right to marry.” March, 2004 and May, 2004 asked about: “The issue of gay and lesbian marriage.” August, 2003 and February, 2004 asked about: “The debate about allowing gays and lesbians to marry.”

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
c. Reports that General Motors may go into bankruptcy	34	40	17	9	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:²					
May 1-4, 2009: <i>Financial problems in the U.S. auto industry</i>	32	42	17	8	1
April 24-27, 2009	30	39	16	15	*
April 3-6, 2009	31	35	16	18	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>U.S. automakers seeking billions in federal loans to avoid bankruptcy</i>	33	34	22	11	*
December 19-22, 2008: <i>Bush administration plan for emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i>	37	33	16	13	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>Debate over a government bailout for U.S. auto industry</i>	40	33	18	9	*
December 5-8, 2008: <i>Debate in Congress over a bailout for U.S. auto industry</i>	34	38	17	11	*
November 21-24, 2008	41	26	17	15	1
November 14-17, 2008: <i>Problems facing U.S. automakers</i>	30	35	20	15	*
October 31-November 3, 2008: <i>Possible merger of GM and Chrysler</i>	16	28	24	31	1
May 18-21, 2007: <i>DaimlerChrysler sells Chrysler</i>	8	20	25	46	1
September 28-October 1, 2007: <i>Agreement between GM and UAW ending strike</i>	14	28	28	30	*
December, 2005: <i>General Motors job cuts</i>	22	30	26	21	1
June, 1998: <i>Chrysler/Daimler Benz merger</i>	12	22	27	38	1
January, 1992: <i>General Motors job cuts</i>	35	38	18	9	*
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0

² February 20-23, 2009 asked about: "U.S. automakers seeking billions of dollars in federal loans to avoid bankruptcy." December 19-22, 2008 asked about "The Bush administration's plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers." December 12-15, 2008 asked about "The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry." November 21-24, 2008 and December 5-8, 2008 asked about "The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry." November 14-17, 2008 asked about: "News about problems facing U.S. automakers." October 31-November 3, 2008 asked about: "The possible merger of automakers General Motors and Chrysler." May 18-21, 2007 asked about: "DaimlerChrysler's decision to sell Chrysler to a private equity firm." January, 1992 and December, 2005 asked about: "The major job cuts announced by General Motors." June, 1998 asked about: "The merger of the Chrysler Corporation and Daimler Benz." September 28-October 1, 2007 asked about "An agreement between General Motors and the United Auto Workers union that ended a two-day strike over wages and job security."

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
e. Reports about North Korea testing nuclear weapons and missiles	34	36	17	13	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:³					
<i>April 3-6, 2009: North Korea's plans to test long range missile</i>	23	31	19	27	*
<i>June 27-30, 2008: North Korea takes steps to halt its nuclear weapons program</i>	19	30	26	24	1
<i>February 16-19, 2007: Nuclear weapons negotiations</i>	15	31	22	31	1
<i>Late October, 2006: Nuclear weapons test</i>	45	33	13	8	1
<i>February, 2005: Nuclear weapons program</i>	22	34	22	22	*
<i>September, 2003</i>	19	32	27	21	1

³ April 3-6, 2009 asked about: "North Korea's plans to test a long range missile." June 27-30, 2008 asked about: "North Korea taking steps to halt its nuclear weapons program." February 16-19, 2007 asked about: "Recent negotiations to shut down North Korea's nuclear weapons program." October, 2006 asked about: "North Korea's announcement that it recently tested a nuclear weapon." January, 2003 to February, 2005 asked about: "North Korea's nuclear weapons program." Late October, 2002 asked about: "North Korea's admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons." June, 1994 asked about: "Reports about North Korea's building of nuclear weapons and refusal to allow UN inspections."

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
May, 2003	27	40	22	11	*
March, 2003	34	34	19	12	1
February, 2003	33	34	18	13	2
January, 2003	33	34	18	14	1
Late October, 2002: <i>Admits to secret weapons program</i>	25	31	23	20	1
June, 1994: <i>Refuses U.N. inspections</i>	27	33	26	14	*
f. The military conflict between the Taliban and the Pakistani government	23	30	23	23	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:⁴					
May 8-11, 2009: <i>Pakistan instability</i>	18	23	23	36	*
April 24-27, 2009	15	27	27	31	*
March 13-16, 2009	14	20	26	40	0
September 26-29, 2008: <i>Hotel bombing</i>	16	32	23	28	1
August 15-18, 2008: <i>Pakistan instability</i>	10	25	29	35	1
February 22-25, 2008: <i>Parliamentary elections</i>	9	24	28	39	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>Pakistan instability</i>	19	33	20	27	1
January 4-7, 2008: <i>Bhutto assassination</i>	32	36	15	16	1
Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2007: <i>Pakistan instability</i>	16	28	26	30	*
Nov. 23-26, 2007	13	27	31	28	1
Nov. 16-19, 2007	20	30	21	28	1
Nov. 9-12, 2007	20	29	23	28	*
October 19-22, 2007: <i>Pakistan bombing aimed at Bhutto</i>	21	28	21	30	*
July 13-16, 2007: <i>Raid on Pakistani mosque</i>	10	19	23	47	1

Q.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

- 20 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 18 Reports that General Motors may go into bankruptcy
- 15 The nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court
- 15 Reports about North Korea testing nuclear weapons and missiles
- 9 The California Supreme Court upholding a ban on gay marriage
- 3 The military conflict between the Taliban and the Pakistani government
- 7 Some other story
- 11 Don't know/Refused

⁴ September 26-29, 2008 asked about "A bombing at a Marriott Hotel in Pakistan that killed over 50 people." November 9-12, 2007 through November 30-December 3, 2007; January 11-14, 2008, August 15-18, 2008, March 13-16, 2009 and April 24-27, 2009 and May 8-11, 2009 asked about "Political instability in Pakistan." February 22-25, 2008 asked about "Parliamentary elections and changes in party control in Pakistan." January 4-7, 2008 asked about "The assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and resulting instability in Pakistan." October 19-22, 2007 asked about "A bombing in Pakistan aimed at former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that killed over 120 people." July 13-16, 2007 asked about "The Pakistani government's raid on a mosque held by Islamic radicals."

On another topic...

Q.3 Would you say the press has been too critical, not critical enough, or fair in the way it has covered Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor?

17	Too critical
20	Not critical enough
45	Fair
18	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.4 How much, if anything, would you say you have learned about Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor since she was nominated? [**READ**]

18	A lot
33	Some
24	Just a little
25	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused

IF 1,2,3 IN Q.4 ASK:

Q.5 From what you've read and heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you LIKE about Sonia Sotomayor? **[OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW: "It can be anything you've read or heard that has made you feel positively toward her?" ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]. [RECORD ALL MENTIONS ON ONE SCREEN]**

BASED ON TOTAL [N=1001]:

45	Yes, Named something
20	Background/Experience (NET)
	7 Personal background/story
	3 Experience (general)
	2 Qualified/good candidate
	2 Education
	2 Legal background/record
	2 Background (general)
11	Female
9	Hispanic/minority
8	Personal Character (NET)
	3 Fair
	2 Intelligent
	2 Her attitude/personality
	1 Honest
1	Brings diversity to the court
1	Position on abortion
1	Her judgments/decisions
*	Everything
10	Other
29	Nothing/Don't know/Refused
26	Haven't learned anything yet/DK in Q.4

IF 1,2,3 IN Q.4 ASK:

Q.6 From what you've read and heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you DISLIKE about Sonia Sotomayor? **[OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW: "It can be anything you've read or heard that has made you feel negatively toward her?" ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]. [RECORD ALL MENTIONS ON ONE SCREEN]**

BASED ON TOTAL [N=1001]:

- 26 **Yes, Named something**
 - 7 **Racial bias (NET)**
 - 3 Racist
 - 2 Comment comparing white men and Latina women
 - 1 Ruling in the New Haven, CT, firefighter's case
 - 5 **Judicial activism (NET)**
 - 2 Comment about judges making policy/legislating from the bench
 - 2 Interprets law she sees it/Uses emotion to make decisions
 - 1 Activist judge
 - 3 **Other Issues (NET)**
 - 1 Position on abortion
 - 1 Position on gun control
 - 1 Other legal decision
 - 2 **Background/Experience (NET)**
 - 1 Background
 - 1 Do No trust/Not genuine/not forthcoming
 - * Experience/Inexperience
 - 2 Too liberal
 - 2 Dislike some of her statements/inappropriate comments
 - 2 Everything
 - 1 Female
 - 6 Other
- 48 **Nothing/Don't know/Refused**
- 26 **Haven't learned anything yet/DK in Q.4**