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**Energy Concerns Fall, Deficit Concerns Rise**  
**PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR 2010: ECONOMY, JOBS, TERRORISM**

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## **Energy Concerns Fall, Deficit Concerns Rise**

### **PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR 2010: ECONOMY, JOBS, TERRORISM**

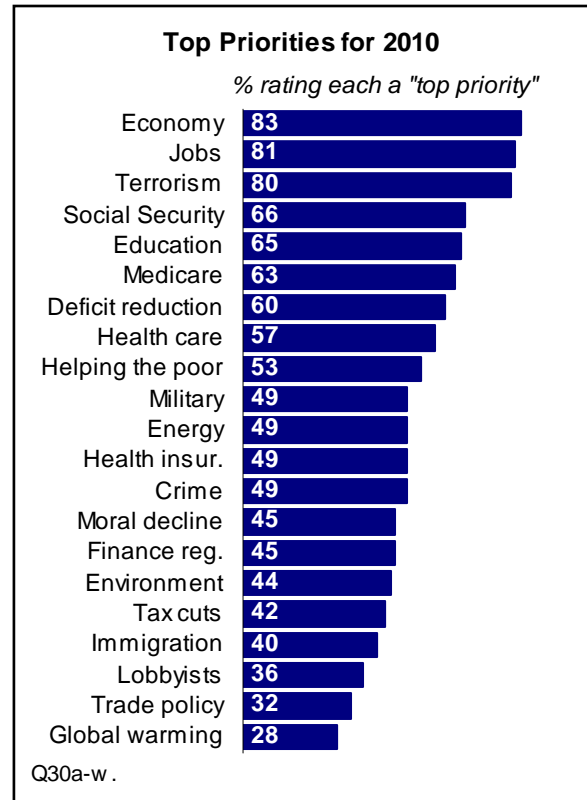
As Barack Obama begins his second year in office, the public's priorities for the president and Congress remain much as they were one year ago. Strengthening the nation's economy and improving the job situation continue to top the list. And, in the wake of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, defending the country from future terrorist attacks also remains a top priority.

At the same time, the public has shifted the emphasis it assigns to two major policy issues: dealing with the nation's energy problem and reducing the budget deficit. About half (49%) say that dealing with the nation's energy problem should be a top priority, down from 60% a year ago. At the same time, there has been a modest rise in the percentage saying that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority, from 53% to 60%.

Other policy priorities show little change from a year ago. For example, despite the ongoing debate over health care reform, about as many now call reducing health care costs a top priority (57%) as did so in early 2009 (59%). In fact, the percentage rating health care costs a top priority is lower now than it was in both 2008 (69%) and 2007 (68%).

In addition, the percentage placing top priority on providing health insurance to the uninsured stands at 49%. That is little changed from a year ago and off its high of 61% in January 2001. Notably, there is now a wider partisan gap in opinion about this issue than for any of the other 20 issues in the survey: fully 75% of Democrats rate providing health insurance to the uninsured as a top priority compared with just 26% of Republicans.

More than six-in-ten Americans say securing the Social Security system (66%) and securing the Medicare system (63%) should be top priorities for Obama and Congress. About as many (65%) say that improving the educational system should be a top policy priority. For all three items, public evaluations are not significantly different than they were one year ago.



In the wake of the financial crisis, the public does not place increased financial regulation among its top policy priorities. Fewer than half (45%) say stricter regulation of financial institutions should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

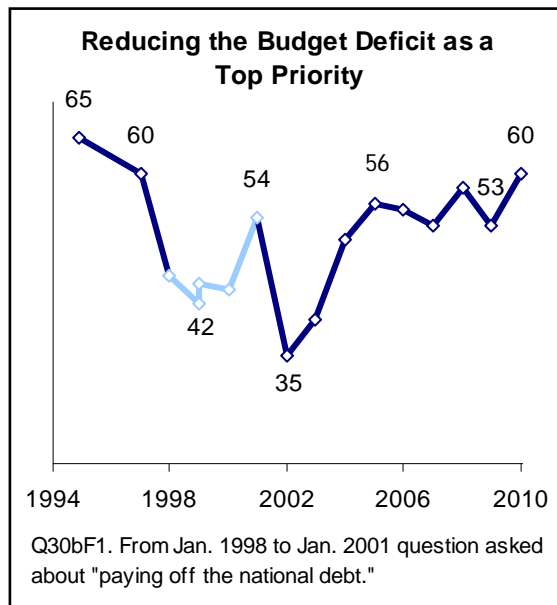
<b>Top Domestic Priorities for Obama and Congress</b>												
<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	09-10
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<b>2010</b>	<i>change</i>	
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	73	79	75	66	68	75	85	<b>83</b>	-2	
Improving the job situation	60	67	62	67	68	65	57	61	82	<b>81</b>	-1	
Defending US against terrorism	--	83	81	78	75	80	80	74	76	<b>80</b>	+4	
Securing Social Security	74	62	59	65	70	64	64	64	63	<b>66</b>	+3	
Improving educational system	78	66	62	71	70	67	69	66	61	<b>65</b>	+4	
Securing Medicare	71	55	56	62	67	62	63	60	60	<b>63</b>	+3	
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	40	51	56	55	53	58	53	<b>60</b>	<b>+7</b>	
Reducing health care costs	--	--	--	--	--	--	68	69	59	<b>57</b>	-2	
Dealing with problems of poor	63	44	48	50	59	55	55	51	50	<b>53</b>	+3	
Strengthening the military	48	52	48	48	52	42	46	42	44	<b>49</b>	+5	
Dealing with US energy problem	--	42	40	46	47	58	57	59	60	<b>49</b>	<b>-11</b>	
Providing health ins. to uninsured	61	43	45	54	60	59	56	54	52	<b>49</b>	-3	
Reducing crime	76	53	47	53	53	62	62	54	46	<b>49</b>	+3	
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	45	39	45	41	47	47	43	45	<b>45</b>	0	
Stricter rules for financial institutions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<b>45</b>	--	
Protecting the environment	63	44	39	49	49	57	57	56	41	<b>44</b>	+3	
Reducing middle class taxes	66	43	--	44	48	51	48	46	43	<b>42</b>	-1	
Dealing with illegal immigration	--	--	--	--	--	--	55	51	41	<b>40</b>	-1	
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	39	36	<b>36</b>	0	
Dealing with global trade	37	25	--	32	32	30	34	37	31	<b>32</b>	+1	
Dealing with global warming	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	35	30	<b>28</b>	-2	

Q30a-w.

## Budget Deficit and Energy

The priority given to reducing the budget deficit has risen seven points over the last year; in early 2009, 53% of the public called deficit reduction a top priority compared with 60% in the current survey. Both Republicans (+10 points) and Democrats (+8 points) have become more likely to say this is a top priority.

Emphasis on the budget deficit has increased since 2002, when it reached a low ebb following several years of budget surpluses (from 1998 to 2001 the question was worded “paying off the national debt”). Currently, the priority given to reducing the budget deficit is not significantly higher than it was in 2008 (58% top priority) or 1997 (60% top priority) and it lags slightly behind the high of 65% in December 1994.



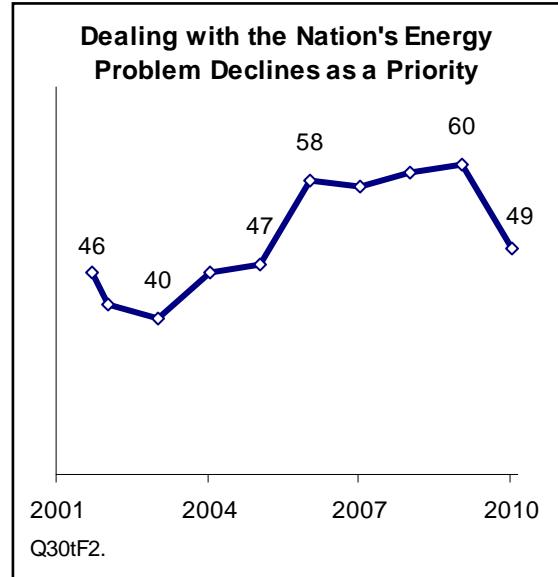
In the past two years, there has been no difference between the priority Republicans and Democrats place on reducing the budget deficit. In the current survey, a single point separates Republicans (61% top priority) from Democrats (60% top priority). In 2009, partisans were equally close in their views. This is a dramatic change from much of the previous decade. Throughout the Bush administration, Democrats expressed far more concern than Republicans over the deficit. The opposite was true in 1997, when Bill Clinton was in office. At that time significantly more Republicans than Democrats said reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority.

<b>Partisan Views of the Budget Deficit</b>				
<i>% rating deficit 'top priority'</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<i>R-D diff</i>
	%	%	%	
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 1997	66	54	62	+12

Q30bF1.

Six-in-ten independents say this should be a top priority, matching the views of Republicans and Democrats. Independents' concern over the budget deficit has been stable over the past three years.

While concern over the budget deficit has gone up, the percentage giving priority to dealing with the nation's energy problem has declined significantly – and this decline has taken place among Republicans, Democrats and independents alike. In the current survey, 49% rate energy a top priority, down 11 points from 60% in 2009. In the late 2000s, about six-in-ten consistently gave top priority to dealing with the nation's energy problem. The current number is more in line with views from the early years of that decade, when the percentage that said dealing with the nation's energy problem should be a top priority ranged from the low-to-mid 40s.



### Global Warming and the Environment

Dealing with global warming ranks at the bottom of the public's list of priorities; just 28% consider this a top priority, the lowest measure for any issue tested in the survey. Since 2007, when the item was first included on the priorities list, dealing with global warming has consistently ranked at or near the bottom. Even so, the percentage that now says addressing global warming should be a top priority has fallen 10 points from 2007, when 38% considered it a top priority. Such a low ranking is driven in part by indifference among Republicans: just 11% consider global warming a top priority, compared with 43% of Democrats and 25% of independents.

Protecting the environment fares somewhat better than dealing with global warming on the public's list of priorities, though it still falls on the lower half of the list overall. Some 44% say that protecting the environment should be a top priority for Obama and Congress, little changed from 2009.

## Jobs, Economy and Terrorism Defense

Strengthening the nation's economy, improving the job situation and defending the country from future terrorist attacks are far-and-away the top three policy priorities for the public. No other item comes within 14 points. Last year, both the economy and jobs edged ahead of defending the nation against terrorism as top priorities. In 2008, the economy and terrorism defense were virtually tied atop the priority list, while somewhat fewer people expressed concern over jobs. In 2006 and 2007, the public was more concerned about terrorism than it was about economic issues.

Improving the job situation has moved to the top of the list only recently. For much of the past decade, the percent of the public calling the job situation a top priority fluctuated in the 60s and trailed the economy. It spiked to 82% in 2009 and stands at 81% in the current survey.

There are no major differences in how Republicans, Democrats and independents prioritize strengthening the economy. Democrats are somewhat more likely than Republicans and independents to rate improving the job situation as a top priority. And Republicans are slightly more inclined than Democrats and independents to give top priority to defending the country from future terrorist attacks. Nonetheless, at least 75% of all groups give top priority to these issues, and partisan differences are generally modest when compared to differences over other policy priorities.

### Economic Issues, Terrorism Defense Dominate Across Political Groups

	<u>Jan 2009</u>
<i>Percent top "priority"</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>Strengthening economy</b>	
Republican	81
Democrat	87
Independent	82
<b>Improving job situation</b>	
Republican	80
Democrat	90
Independent	77
<b>Defending U.S. from terror</b>	
Republican	89
Democrat	80
Independent	76

Q30aF1/IF1/s.

## Dueling Partisan Agendas

Despite general partisan agreement on the importance of improving the job situation, strengthening the economy and protecting the country, large differences exist between Republicans and Democrats on other leading issues.

Republicans and Democrats take starkly different positions on the importance of providing health insurance to the uninsured; 75% of Democrats call this a top priority compared with 26% of Republicans. The 49-point gap in opinion is the largest for any of the 21 issues tested. Health insurance also was the most political divisive issue a year ago, though the gap was smaller at 38 points. In the current survey, 41% of independents call providing health insurance to the uninsured a top priority.

Democrats also are far more likely than Republicans to put a top priority on dealing with global warming, the problems of poor and needy people, protecting the environment, reducing health care costs and improving the educational system. In each case, Democrats are at least 20 points more likely than Republicans to consider each of these issues top priorities.

Republicans, by contrast, place more emphasis than do Democrats on strengthening the military, dealing with illegal immigration, and reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interests in Washington. Here again, the gaps in opinion are relatively large, with Republicans being about 20 points more likely than Democrats to call each of these issues top priorities.

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %	<i>R-D diff</i>
Providing health ins. to uninsured	26	75	41	-49
Dealing with global warming	11	43	25	-32
Dealing with problems of poor	40	67	48	-27
Protecting the environment	34	60	38	-26
Reducing health care costs	48	71	52	-23
Improving educational system	54	75	64	-21
Securing Medicare	54	72	61	-18
Stricter rules for financial institutions	40	56	40	-16
Dealing with U.S. energy problem	43	56	45	-13
Improving job situation	80	90	77	-10
Reducing crime	46	55	46	-9
Securing Social Security	62	68	66	-6
Strengthening nation's economy	81	87	82	-6
Dealing with global trade	32	37	29	-5
Reducing middle-class taxes	45	45	39	0
Reducing budget deficit	61	60	60	+1
Dealing with moral breakdown	52	45	42	+7
Defending U.S. against terrorism	89	80	76	+9
Reducing influence of lobbyists	45	27	40	+18
Dealing with illegal immigration	49	30	42	+19
Strengthening the military	64	44	47	+20

Q30a-w.

The gap between Republicans and Democrats on reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington has widened this year; 45% of Republicans say this should be a top priority compared with 27% of Democrats. In 2009, Republicans (37%) were somewhat more likely than Democrats (30%) to call reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interests a top priority. And in 2007, the partisan balance was reversed with more Democrats (44%) calling this a top priority than Republicans (28%).

<b>Reducing Clout of Special Interests Now a Bigger Priority for Republicans than Democrats</b>				
<i>% saying reducing influence of special interests is "top priority"</i>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2008</u>	Jan <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>
	%	%	%	%
Total	35	39	36	36
Republican	28	42	37	45
Democrat	44	36	30	27
Independent	35	42	42	40
<i>Issue ranking among policy priorities</i>	21/22	18/21	18/20	19/21
Q30vF2.				

Reducing the budget deficit and reducing federal income taxes for the middle class are two points of partisan agreement. Almost the same percentage of Republicans and Democrats call these issues top priorities.



## State of the Union Address

With Obama's State of the Union address set for Jan. 27, 39% say that this year's address will be more important than past years' addresses, while 45% think it will be about as important as previous State of the Union addresses. Just 9% say it will be less important. At 39%, the public assigns greater importance to Obama's address than they did to the last three State of the Union speeches given by former President George W. Bush. Nonetheless, fewer see Obama's upcoming address as more important than said that about Bush's State of the Union addresses in 2002 and 2003.

In January 2002, 54% said that Bush's State of the Union was more important than in previous years. Opinion was similar a year later in January 2003. The percentage saying that

Obama's State of the Union address is more important than in previous years is much greater than it was for former President Clinton's speeches in 1999 and 2000.

About half of Democrats (54%) say that Obama's State of the Union address will be more important than speeches in past years. Republicans and independents are less inclined to take this view: 30% of Republicans and 32% of independents say it will be more important, while pluralities of both groups say it will be about as important as past addresses (49% of independents say this, as do 47% of Republicans).

	More important %	Less important %	Same %	DK %
<b>Obama</b>				
January 2010	39	9	45	7=100
<b>Bush</b>				
January 2008	19	27	46	8=100
January 2007	32	16	43	9=100
January 2006	30	14	47	9=100
January 2005	34	9	47	10=100
January 2004	34	9	49	8=100
January 2003	52	6	35	7=100
January 2002	54	4	36	6=100
<b>Clinton</b>				
January 2000	16	22	53	9=100
January 1999	27	16	51	6=100

Q4F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## 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 1,504 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from January 6-10, 2010 (1,000 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 504 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 201 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://people-press.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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,504	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	764	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	740	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	359	6.5 percentage points
Democrats	484	5.5 percentage points
Independents	605	5.0 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 CENTER

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  
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Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors  
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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JANUARY 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**January 6-10, 2010**  
**N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-3F1, 5-13, 17F2-19, 31-32, 35-41, 45F1-QC.10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.**

**NO QUESTIONS 14-16, 20-29, 33-34, 42-44**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=764]:**

Q.4F1 Now thinking about Obama's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?<sup>1</sup>

		-----George W. Bush -----						-- Clinton --		
Jan 6-10		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Mid-Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan
<u>2010</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
39	More important	19	32	30	34	34	52	54	16	27
9	Less important	27	16	14	9	9	6	4	22	16
45	Same	46	43	47	47	49	35	36	53	51
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	9	9	10	8	7	6	9	6

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1 In 2008, question began "As you may know, George W. Bush will give his annual State of the Union address in a few weeks..."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.30 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read 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
s.	Strengthening the nation's economy	83	14	1	1	1
a.F1	Improving the job situation	81	15	1	1	2
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	80	17	2	*	1
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	66	28	3	2	1
l.F2	Improving the educational system	65	28	4	2	1
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	63	30	4	1	2
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	60	29	5	2	4
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	57	31	5	4	2
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	53	38	6	2	2
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	49	35	10	5	1
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	49	39	7	2	2
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	49	34	7	7	3
c.F1	Reducing crime	49	39	8	2	2
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	45	31	13	7	4
g.F1	Stricter regulation of financial institutions	45	36	11	4	4
e.F1	Protecting the environment	44	42	11	2	2
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	42	40	9	5	4
k.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	40	41	14	2	3
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	36	34	18	7	6
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	32	46	12	4	7
w.F2	Dealing with global warming	28	36	20	14	2

FULL TREND

**ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=764]:**

a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	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
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
	Mid-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

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should not</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u>
		<u>priority</u>	<u>but lower</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit					
	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
	Mid-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
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	Paying off the national debt					
	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 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
	Mid-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
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class					
	Jan 6-10, 2010	42	40	9	5	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	43	39	10	4	4
	January, 2008	46	40	8	3	3
	January, 2007	48	35	10	4	3
	January, 2006	51	32	8	5	4
	January, 2005	48	35	8	6	3
	Mid-January, 2004	44	37	12	6	1
	January, 2002	43	37	11	6	3
	January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3
e.F1	Protecting the environment					
	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	*
	Mid-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 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
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
	Mid-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	Stricter regulation of financial institutions					
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	36	11	4	4
	<b>NO ITEM h</b>					
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2
	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
	Mid-January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	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
	Mid-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
k.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration					
	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
<b>ASK ITEMS 1 THRU r OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=740]:</b>						
l.F2	Improving the educational system					
	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	*
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	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
	Mid-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

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	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
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	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	*
	Mid-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
	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
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
	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
	Mid-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	*
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country					
	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
	Mid-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



**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	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
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured					
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	34	7	7	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	52	33	6	6	3
	January, 2008	54	32	8	4	2
	January, 2007	56	31	7	4	2
	January, 2006	59	30	6	2	3
	January, 2005	60	30	7	2	1
	Mid-January, 2004	54	34	8	3	1
	January, 2003	45	41	10	2	2
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	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
	Mid-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
<b>ASK ALL:</b>						
s.	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	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
	Mid-January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1
	Early September, 2001 <sup>2</sup>	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1

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

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should not</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u>
		<u>priority</u>	<u>but lower</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK ITEMS t THRU w OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=740]:</b>						
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem					
	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
	Mid-January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3
	Early September, 2001 <sup>3</sup>	46	41	6	2	5
<b>NO ITEM u.</b>						
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
	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
w.F2	Dealing with global warming					
	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

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

**ASK ALL:**

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

**IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:**

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 <i>Rep</i>	Lean <i>Dem</i>
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
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
Mar 9-12, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
Feb 4-8, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
Jan 7-11, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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	--	--	--	--	--