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For The People & The Press

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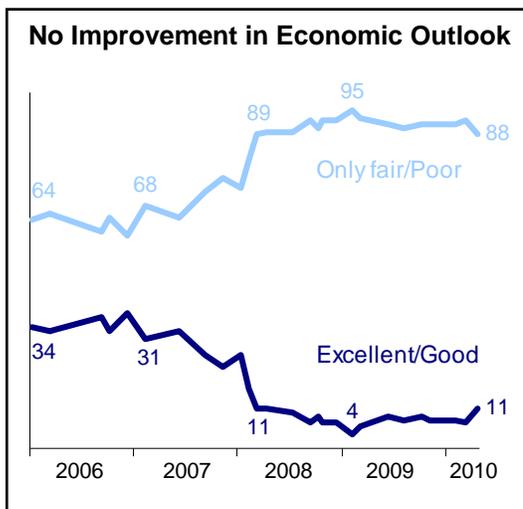
Republicans Draw Even With Democrats on Most Issues
PESSIMISTIC PUBLIC DOUBTS EFFECTIVENESS OF STIMULUS,
TARP

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Republicans Draw Even With Democrats on Most Issues **PESSIMISTIC PUBLIC DOUBTS EFFECTIVENESS OF STIMULUS, TARP**

The public remains doggedly downbeat about the condition of the national economy, even as many experts and economists see signs of recovery. As has been the case for most of the past two years, about nine-in-ten (88%) rate national economic conditions as only fair or poor, and over the past year there has been no decline in the percentage saying the economy will stay the same (36%) or get worse (19%) a year from now.



In this light, it is not surprising that many Americans are dubious about the effectiveness of the government’s principal economic programs. Just 33% say the economic stimulus passed by Congress last year has helped the job situation and only somewhat more (42%) say the loans the federal government provided to troubled financial institutions prevented a more severe financial crisis. Less than a third (31%) says that the government has made progress in fixing the problems that caused the 2008 financial crisis.

More generally, perceptions of the job situation may well be the critical factor in the public’s economic gloom and doubts about the effectiveness of government economic policies. In a News Interest Index survey in early April, 66% said they were hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy overall, while a majority (56%) said they were hearing mostly bad news about the job situation. (See “Public Remains Focused on Health Care Reform, April 7, 2010.)

The political consequences of the public’s unabated economic pessimism are evident in the new polling. Barack Obama’s overall job approval rating is 47%, the fifth month in a row he has polled below

Doubts about Economic Policies			
			Apr 2010
<i>Gov’t loans to troubled banks & financial Institutions...</i>			%
Helped prevent a more severe crisis			42
Did not help			49
Don't know			8
			100
<i>Economic stimulus plan...</i>			
Helped the job situation			33
Did not help			62
Don't know			5
			100
GOP Even with Dems on Most Issues			
	Rep	Dem	Rep adv.
<i>Which party can do a better job handling...</i>	Party	Party	
	%	%	
Foreign policy	39	34	+5
Budget deficit	38	35	+3
Immigration	36	35	+1
Dealing w/banks	36	36	0
Job situation	36	37	-1
Energy problems	32	40	-8
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q 30, Q31 & Q3.			

50%; just 38% say they approve of his handling of the economy. His party’s capabilities are now also under a cloud. The Democratic Party has lost ground to the Republican Party on a wide range of issues, including the job situation.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the Press, conducted April 21-26 among 1,546 adults, finds that as many say the Republican Party (36%) as the Democratic Party (37%) could do better in improving the job situation. Four years ago, the Democrats enjoyed a 47% to 29% advantage on this issue. Similarly, the public is evenly split over which party could do a better job of dealing with banks and financial institutions (36% each). Nor is there a consensus on who can reduce the federal budget deficit (38% Republican vs. 35% Democratic Party).

The Democratic Party holds a significant edge on only one of six issues tested – dealing with the nation’s energy problems. Even there however, its 40% to 32% advantage over the GOP is far narrower than its 22-point lead last August (47% to 25%).

Nuclear Arms Treaty Lauded

While Obama’s principal economic policies do not get good reviews, the public on balance has a positive view of his approach to the situation in the Middle East: far more say he is striking the right balance (47%) than say he favors the Palestinians (21%) or the Israelis (7%) too much.

Moreover, Obama gets broad bipartisan support for the treaty he recently signed with Russia to cut the number of nuclear weapons in both countries. Overall, 71% approve of Obama’s decision to sign the treaty, while 64% approve of Obama’s decision to declare that the United States will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries.

Opinions about Obama’s Nuclear Policies			
	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
<i>Obama’s decision to...</i>			
Sign treaty w/ Russia reducing number of weapons in both countries	71	23	6=100
Declare the U.S. won’t use nuclear weapons on countries without them	64	30	6=100
Stop the U.S. from developing new nuclear weapons	47	47	6=100
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q29a-c. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

However, the poll finds the public split over Obama’s decision to stop developing new nuclear weapons. While most Democrats (61%) approve of this decision, about as many Republicans (66%) disapprove while independents are divided (48% approve, 47% disapprove).

More broadly, a plurality of Americans (47%) continue to say that Obama is not tough enough in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues. Most Republicans (70%)

say Obama is not tough enough in dealing with national security issues, while nearly as many Democrats (66%) say his approach is about right. About half of independents (52%) say Obama is not tough enough, while 37% say he handles foreign affairs about right.

As Obama prepares to make his second Supreme Court nomination, public perceptions of the court have shifted. Today, as many Americans think the current court is liberal as say it is conservative (24% each). Three years ago, 36% said the court was conservative and just 14% saw it as liberal. This shift in views spans partisan lines, as Republicans, Democrats and independents alike see the court as less conservative than three years ago. Four-in-ten Americans say the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice is very important to them personally, and there is equal interest in the next nomination on the political left and right.

More See Supreme Court as Liberal			
	July <u>2007</u>	Apr <u>2010</u>	<i>07-10</i> <i>change</i>
<i>Current court is...</i>	%	%	
Conservative	36	24	-12
Middle of the road	35	36	+1
Liberal	14	24	+10
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	+1
	100	100	

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q35.

SECTION 1: THE PARTIES AND OBAMA

As the debate in Washington heats up over new regulations on financial markets, the public is divided evenly over whether the Republican Party or Democratic Party (36% each) can do a better job of dealing with banks and financial institutions. Another 28% offer no preference between the two. The parties are also even when it comes to dealing with the job situation – 36% see the GOP as stronger, 37% the Democratic Party. The last time this issue was tested in 2006, the Democrats held a wide 47% to 29% advantage on jobs.

Similarly, neither party has an advantage on two other key issues that may be addressed in Congress this year, immigration and energy. Currently, 36% say the GOP can do the better job on immigration, while 35% pick the Democratic Party.

The Democratic Party holds a slim edge (40% vs. 32%) when it comes to dealing with the nation's energy problems, but its lead has narrowed substantially over the past two years. As recently as last August, 47% favored the Democrats and just 25% the Republicans on this issue.

Since last summer, there has been a sharp turnaround in the balance of public opinion with respect to foreign policy. In August 2009, 44% favored the Democratic Party on foreign policy and 31% the GOP. But today, the Republican Party holds a slim 39% to 34% edge in this issue area.

Parties Now Even on Jobs, Banks, Deficit				
<i>Which party can do a better job of...</i>	Rep <u>Party</u> %	Dem <u>Party</u> %	Both/ Neither/ <u>DK</u> %	<i>Rep <u>adv</u></i>
Making wise decisions about foreign policy				
April 2010	39	34	27	+5
August 2009	31	44	24	-13
February 2008	40	45	15	-5
Reducing federal deficit				
April 2010	38	35	28	+3
February 2010	42	36	21	+6
August 2009	35	36	29	-1
September 2006	27	47	26	-20
Dealing with immigration				
April 2010	36	35	29	+1
August 2009	31	36	32	-5
February 2008	38	43	19	-5
October 2006	35	33	32	+2
September 2006	32	37	31	-5
April 2006	27	43	30	-16
February 2006	34	38	28	-4
Dealing with banks and financial institutions				
April 2010	36	36	28	0
Improving job situation				
April 2010	36	37	26	-1
September 2006	29	47	24	-18
Dealing w/ energy probs				
April 2010	32	40	28	-8
February 2010	32	44	24	-12
August 2009	25	47	28	-22
February 2008	23	57	20	-34
October 2006	28	44	28	-16

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q10a-f. Figures read across, and may not add to 100% because of rounding. Trends prior to 2006 available in topline.

On each of these issues, the balance of opinion among independents generally mirrors the balance of opinion among the public at large, as Republican and Democratic views offset each other.

But the GOP's edge among independents on both foreign policy and the budget deficit is significant because they are less likely to favor Democrats on these issues. The GOP holds a very

small 38% to 35% edge overall on the deficit, but the margin is 38% to 25% among independents. Similarly, the GOP's slim 39% to 34% overall lead on foreign policy becomes a 37% to 26% advantage when independents are analyzed separately. On both issues, independents are roughly twice as likely as partisans to volunteer that neither party will do a better job.

	Rep	Dem	Both/ Neither/ DK	GOP advantage	
	Party	Party	%	Inds	Total*
	%	%	%		
Foreign policy	37	26	38=100	+11	+5
Budget deficit	38	25	37=100	+13	+3
Immigration	32	29	40=100	+3	+1
Dealing w/banks	34	29	38=100	+5	0
Job situation	35	30	35=100	+5	-1
Energy problems	28	37	35=100	-9	-8

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q10a-f.
*Based on total public; all other figures based on independents.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

A Leaderless GOP

To most Americans, there continues to be no clear leader of the Republican Party. Only about three-in-ten (29%) can name someone who they think of as the leader of the GOP these days. Just over half (52%) say they don't know, and 18% volunteer that "nobody" leads the party.

Among those offering a name, John McCain continues to be mentioned more frequently than any other Republican as the party's leader, though only 8% of Americans cite him. Sarah Palin is named by 4%, Mitt Romney by 3%, and 2% of Americans name Rush Limbaugh and Newt Gingrich as the Republican Party's leader.

More than a third (36%) of Republicans name someone as the party's leader, up from 28% in December. But even among Republicans, 46% say they don't know and 17% say nobody leads the party. As with the public at large, McCain's name comes

	Total Public			Republicans		
	Mar 2009	Dec 2009	Apr 2010	Mar 2009	Dec 2009	Apr 2010
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Named someone	27	25	29	32	28	36
John McCain	11	9	8	12	9	11
Sarah Palin	1	2	4	1	5	5
Mitt Romney	1	1	3	1	2	6
Rush Limbaugh	5	3	2	4	1	1
Newt Gingrich	2	1	2	4	2	3
Mitch McConnell	1	1	1	1	2	1
George W. Bush	*	1	1	*	*	1
Michael Steele	2	1	1	3	1	2
John Boehner	*	*	1	*	*	1
Mike Huckabee	*	1	1	*	1	1
Other	4	4	4	6	5	4
Nobody is (Vol.)	15	22	18	18	22	17
Don't know (Vol.)	<u>57</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>46</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

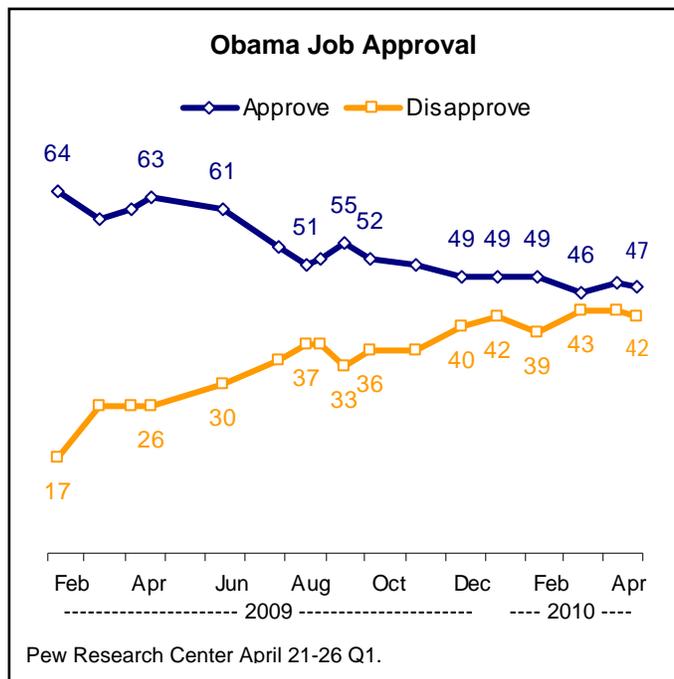
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q11. Open-ended question.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

up more frequently than any other (11%), followed by Mitt Romney (6%) and Sarah Palin (5%). Among conservative Republicans, Romney’s name comes up about as often as McCain’s (8% vs. 9%), with Palin (6%) and Gingrich (5%) not far behind. Just 2% of the public names Rush Limbaugh as the leader of the GOP; however, 8% of liberal Democrats say Limbaugh leads the party.

Obama’s Job Approval

Barack Obama’s overall job approval ratings have remained steady in recent months, with a slim plurality approving of his job performance (currently 47%), and nearly as many disapproving (42%). About eight-in-ten Democrats (79%) approve of Obama’s job performance, up slightly from a low of 74% shortly before the passage of health care reform legislation in March. Just 18% of Republicans approve of Obama – largely unchanged over the course of 2010. Independents are divided over Obama’s job performance: 46% disapprove while 41% approve.

Public reactions to Obama’s handling of major domestic policies have also remained fairly steady. On the key issues of the economy and health care, slim majorities disapprove (54% and 51%, respectively) with little change over the course of the year. Health care remains the single most polarizing issue – with 70% of Democrats approving of Obama’s job compared with 11% of Republicans.



Nearly half of Americans (47%) say they disapprove of Obama's handling of the nation's immigration policy, while just 29% approve. This is largely unchanged from January, when 50% disapproved and 30% approved. Obama's low ratings on immigration reflect the fact that fewer than half of Democrats (45%) say they approve of his performance on the issue. Nearly a quarter of Americans (24%) offer no opinion on Obama's handling of immigration.

Obama receives more positive (43%) than negative (34%) ratings on the issue of energy policy, with little change in the balance of opinion since January. As with immigration, many Americans (23%) have no opinion one way or the other.

There has been more fluctuation in public ratings of Obama's handling of Afghanistan. Currently, about as many Americans approve (41%) as disapprove (42%) of how Obama is dealing with the situation in Afghanistan. The balance of opinion was much more positive (51% approve, 35% disapprove) a month ago. In November, prior to Obama's announcement of his Afghanistan strategy, more Americans disapproved (49%) than approved (36%). As in previous months, Obama receives better marks from Republicans for his handling of Afghanistan (31% approve) than any other issue. The partisan gap on this issue is smaller than any other, as barely half (54%) of Democrats offer a positive assessment.

Obama's Handling of Issues				
	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Energy policy				
Approve	50	45	--	43
Disapprove	34	35	--	34
Afghanistan				
Approve	36	45	51	41
Disapprove	49	43	35	42
Health care				
Approve	43	38	39	40
Disapprove	47	52	52	51
Iran				
Approve	43	--	--	38
Disapprove	40	--	--	43
Economy				
Approve	42	42	41	38
Disapprove	52	51	52	54
Immigration				
Approve	31	30	--	29
Disapprove	48	50	--	47

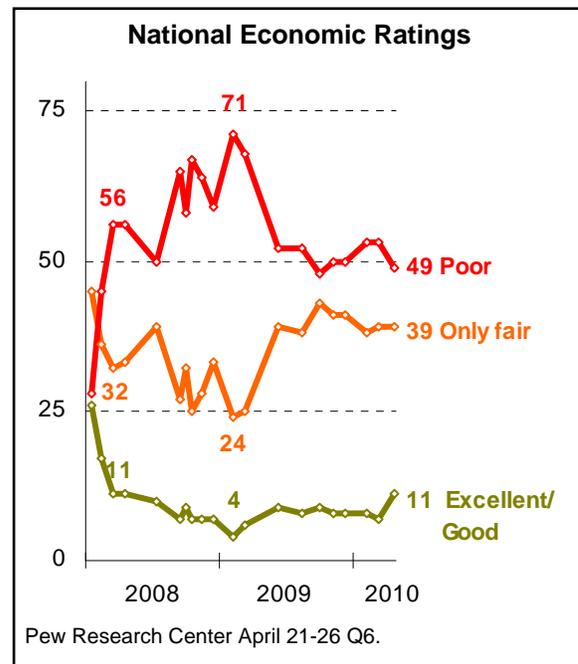
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q3a-f.
 Figures read down.

SECTION 2: THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC POLICIES

Though many experts say the nation's troubled economy is showing signs of recovery, much of the public does not see it. Close to nine-in-ten rate economic conditions today as either poor (49%) or only fair (39%), numbers that have changed little since last June. A majority does not expect an imminent turnaround: more than a third (36%) say they think economic conditions will be about the same a year from now, while 19% say they expect conditions to worsen.

Public perceptions of two of the federal government's most sweeping efforts to right the economy could be contributing to the pessimism. More than six-in-ten (62%) say the economic stimulus package enacted by Congress last year has not helped the job situation, while about half (49%) say the government's loans to banks and other financial institutions did not help prevent a more severe economic crisis. Meanwhile, the

public sees little government progress toward fixing the causes of the financial crisis. About four-in-ten (42%) say they see just a little progress; 25% say they see no progress at all.



Stimulus Not Seen as Helping

Substantial majorities of Republicans (79%) and independents (69%) say that last year's economic stimulus has not helped the job situation. Even among Democrats, opinions about the effectiveness of the stimulus are not overwhelmingly positive: 51% say it has helped the job situation while 42% say it has not.

While a clear majority of liberal Democrats (61%) say the stimulus has helped, conservative and moderate Democrats are divided. About as many say the stimulus helped the job situation (46%) as say it has not (47%).

About six-in-ten African Americans

Most Say Stimulus Has Not Helped Job Situation

<i>Has stimulus helped job situation?</i>	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>N</u>
Total	33	62	5=100	1546
White, non-Hispanic	28	68	5=100	1172
Black, non-Hispanic	58	31	11=100	171
College grad+	39	57	4=100	586
Some college	29	67	5=100	395
HS or less	31	62	6=100	562
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	35	63	2=100	440
\$30,000-74,999	32	64	5=100	496
Less than \$30,000	34	60	6=100	423
Republican	18	79	4=100	413
Democrat	51	42	7=100	499
Independent	27	69	4=100	554

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q30.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

(58%) say the nearly \$800 billion stimulus package has helped, more than double the percentage of whites (28%). College graduates are more likely to say the stimulus has helped the job situation (39%) than those with some college education (29%) or those with a high school diploma or less education (31%). Still, even among college graduates close to six-in-ten (57%) say the legislation has not helped the job situation.

Mixed Views of TARP’s Effectiveness

Opinions are more mixed about the effectiveness of the federal government’s program to loan billions of dollars to troubled banks and financial institutions. About four-in-ten (42%) say the loans helped prevent a more severe economic crisis, while 49% say they did not.

Again, the partisan differences are stark. More than half of Democrats (54%) say the loans did help prevent a more severe crisis, while 37% say they did not. The balance of opinion among Republicans is nearly reversed: 35% say the loans did help prevent a more severe crisis, while 56% say they did not. Notably, opinions among independents about the loans’ effectiveness are nearly identical to those of Republicans (37% helped, 58% did not).

Better educated and more affluent people are more likely to say the loan program did help prevent a more severe economic crisis. For example, 56% of those with a college degree say the loans helped prevent a greater crisis, compared with 34% of those with a high school diploma or less education. Half (50%) of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say the loans helped, compared with 40% among those with incomes of between \$30,000 and \$74,999 and 39% of those with incomes of less than \$30,000.

Did Loans to Troubled Banks Prevent a More Severe Crisis?			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Total	42	49	8=100
White, non-Hispanic	41	52	7=100
Black, non-Hispanic	50	34	16=100
College grad+	56	39	5=100
Some college	42	51	8=100
HS or less	34	55	11=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000 or more	50	46	5=100
\$30,000-74,999	40	53	7=100
Less than \$30,000	39	51	10=100
Republican	35	56	9=100
Democrat	54	37	9=100
Independent	37	58	5=100
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q31. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

Few See Progress in Fixing Causes of Crisis

With lawmakers on Capitol Hill negotiating specifics of a financial regulatory overhaul, most Americans say the government has made little progress in fixing the problems that caused the crisis in the financial markets in the fall of 2008. Four-in-ten (42%) say it has made just a little progress, while 25% say it has made no progress at all.

About three-in-ten say the government has made a great deal (3%) or some progress (28%) in fixing these problems. These numbers are little changed from October 2009.

As they did last fall, partisans have markedly different perspectives on this question. More than four-in-ten Democrats (45%) now say the government has made at least some progress on this front, compared with 21% of Republicans and 25% of independents. About three-in-ten Republicans (32%) and independents (31%) say the government has made no progress at all, compared with 13% of Democrats.

How Much Progress Has Gov't Made in Fixing Causes of Financial Crisis?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Great deal	3	1	6	2
Some	28	20	39	23
Just a little	42	44	40	43
None at all	25	32	13	31
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

NET: Great deal/
Some combined 31 21 45 25

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q32. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Democrats More Upbeat About Economy's Prospects

Most Americans see an economy that continues to struggle. About half (49%) rate economic conditions as poor, while 39% say they are only fair. Just 11% say conditions are excellent or good. In March, 53% rated economic conditions as poor, 39% said they were only fair, and 7% said they were excellent or good. These numbers have fluctuated only slightly for much of the past year.

As has been the case for several months, Democrats express less negative views of the national economy than do Republicans or independents. Majorities of Republicans (56%) and independents (55%) say the economy is poor, compared with 38% of Democrats.

About four-in-ten Americans (42%) say they think economic conditions will be better one year from now, while 36% say they expect conditions to be about the same and 19% expect

Partisan Views of Economic Conditions

<i>National</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>economic conditions...</i>	%	%	%	%
Excellent	*	1	*	*
Good	11	7	17	8
Only fair	39	36	45	36
Poor	49	56	38	55
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

Economic conditions a year from now...

Better	42	27	61	36
Worse	19	26	9	22
About the same	36	42	28	40
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q.6 & Q7.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

conditions to be worse. Those numbers also have changed little in recent months. As with views of current economic conditions, opinions about the future economy are divided along partisan lines. Fully 61% of Democrats see the economy improving over the next year, compared with 36% of independents and just 27% of Republicans.

“Haves and “Have-Nots”

About four-in-ten Americans (42%) say they think of the nation as divided between “haves” and “have-nots.” That is up from 35% in April 2009, but comparable to the percentages measured in 2008 (43% in January and 44% in October).

Democrats (51%) are more likely than Republicans (32%) or independents (43%) to say they see a society divided between haves and have-nots. African Americans are much more likely than whites to see American society this way (66% vs. 37%).

Those with lower incomes and less education are also more likely to see a society divided in this way. Close to half (48%) of those with a high school diploma or less education say the nation is divided between haves and have-nots, more than those with some college education (40%) or college graduates (35%).

About half of those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 (52%) say there is such a divide, compared with 40% of those with incomes of between \$30,000 and \$74,999 and 35% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more.

Just under half (45%) of the public says they see themselves as haves, while 36% see themselves as have-nots. That is little changed from surveys going back to March 2005. Not surprisingly, those with higher family incomes and the better educated are more likely to count themselves among the haves.

More than six-in-ten (63%) of those with household income of at least \$75,000 say they see themselves as haves. By comparison, 31% of those with incomes of less than \$30,000 and 45% of those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 say this. About six-in-ten college graduates (58%) say they see themselves as haves, compared with 45% of those with some college experience and 36% of those with a high school diploma or less education.

	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	42	53	5=100
White, non-Hispanic	37	59	4=100
Black, non-Hispanic	66	27	7=100
College grad+	35	62	3=100
Some college	40	56	4=100
HS or less	48	45	7=100
<i>Family Income</i>			
\$75,000 or more	35	63	2=100
\$30,000-74,999	40	55	4=100
Less than \$30,000	52	42	6=100
Republican	32	64	3=100
Democrat	51	42	7=100
Independent	43	53	4=100
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q8. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

SECTION 3: THE SUPREME COURT

As Barack Obama considers potential nominees to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, opinion about the ideological makeup of the court is divided with 24% describing the court as “liberal”, and an equal number saying it is “conservative.” A plurality (36%) considers the current Supreme Court to be “middle of the road.” Far fewer see the court as conservative today than was the case three years ago. In July 2007, 36% said the court was conservative and just 14% said the court was liberal.

Views of the Supreme Court’s ideological leanings have shifted across party lines. Today, more Republicans see the court as liberal rather than conservative by a three-to-one margin (33% to 11%). In 2007, just 18% described the court as liberal while 26% saw it as conservative. In both years, Democrats have been more likely to see the court as conservative rather than liberal, but by a much narrower margin today (34% conservative, 20% liberal) than in 2007 (48%, 11%). As many independents now say the Supreme Court is liberal (24%) as conservative (23%), but in 2007 far more viewed the court as conservative (37%) than liberal (13%).

Fewer Now Describe the Supreme Court as Conservative				
<i>Current court is...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
April 2010	%	%	%	%
Conservative	24	11	34	23
Middle of the road	36	41	32	37
Liberal	24	33	20	24
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
July 2007				
Conservative	36	26	48	37
Middle of the road	35	44	28	35
Liberal	14	18	11	13
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>07-10 change in "conservative"</i>	-12	-15	-14	-14
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q35. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				

Conservative Republicans are the most likely to see the court as liberal (39%), while liberal Democrats are the most likely to describe it as conservative (41%). Again, these views have shifted over the past three years. In 2007, just 22% of conservative Republicans said the court was liberal, and 66% of liberal Democrats saw it as conservative.

Has the Court Shifted?

When asked to assess whether the court's position has changed over the past few decades, 43% say that the court is about the same now as it has been. But among those who see shifts in the court's ideology, more say the court has become more liberal (28%) than say it has moved in a more conservative direction (19%).

There are sizable partisan differences. While 44% of Republicans say they court has become more liberal over the last 20 years, 35% say it has stayed about the same and just 10% think the court has become more conservative. By comparison, about half of Democrats (51%) say the court has not changed much, while 25% say the court has become more conservative and 16% say the court has become more liberal. Among independents, slightly more see a liberal (28%) than conservative (22%) change in the court, while 41% say the court has stayed about the same.

	More See Liberal than Conservative Shift in Court			
	<i>Over past two decades, court has become...</i>			
	More conservative	Stayed about the same	More liberal	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	19	43	28	10=100
Men	22	41	29	8=100
Women	16	44	28	12=100
18-29	14	42	31	14=100
30-49	21	42	26	10=100
50-64	23	44	27	6=100
65+	16	43	30	10=100
College grad+	33	34	25	7=100
Some college	16	38	34	12=100
HS or less	11	51	26	11=100
Republican	10	35	44	10=100
Conserv Rep	11	32	49	7=100
Mod/Lib Rep	8	46	35	11=100
Democrat	25	51	16	8=100
Cons/Mod Dem	20	56	18	6=100
Lib Dem	36	42	14	9=100
Independent	22	41	28	9=100

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q36.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Both conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats are more likely than others in their party to say the court has undergone a shift away from their own ideological leanings over the past 20 years. About half of conservative Republicans (49%) now say the court has become more liberal, while 35% of moderate and liberal Republicans say this. Among Democrats 36% of liberals say the court has become more conservative over the past two decades, compared with 20% of conservative and moderate Democrats.

College graduates are twice as likely as others to say the Supreme Court has become more conservative over this period. About a third of college graduates (33%) say this, compared with just 16% of those with some college experience and 11% of those who have not attended college. Men are also slightly more likely than women to say the court has become more conservative (22% vs. 16%) over the past 20 years.

Who Should Obama Nominate?

When it comes to replacing Justice Stevens, as many want to see Obama nominate someone who would make the court more liberal (27%), as more conservative (28%), while 35% say he should choose someone who will keep the court about the same as it is now. This is similar to the public's preferences before the nominations of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1993 and John Roberts in 2005.

About half of Republicans (49%), including 59% of conservative Republicans, say Obama should nominate people who will make the court more conservative. By contrast, 45% of Democrats, including two-thirds of liberal Democrats (67%), say Obama should nominate people who will make the court more liberal. Among independents, 39% want to see no change in the ideology of the court, with an equal number preferring a nominee who moves the court in a conservative or liberal direction (26% each).

The President Should Nominate Someone Who Will Make the Court...

	<i>Clinton</i> March <u>1993*</u> %	<i>Bush</i> July <u>2005</u> %	<i>Obama</i> April <u>2010</u> %
More conservative	29	27	28
About the same	38	40	35
More liberal	29	24	27
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q37.
*March 1993 data from Gallup. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Importance of Supreme Court Nominee

Four-in-ten Americans (40%) now say the choice of the next Supreme Court justice is very important to them personally. This is somewhat lower than the percentage saying this in July 2005, shortly after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her retirement (47%).

As in 2005, Republicans and Democrats are about equally likely to say the choice of the next justice is very important to them (46% and 43%, respectively). In particular, those on the opposite ends of the ideological and partisan spectrum are the most likely to say this; 56% of both conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats say the choice is very important to them. Independents are less inclined than partisans to view the choice of the next justice as personally important (36%).

Fewer See Next Court Choice as Personally Important

<i>Percent who say "very important"</i>	July <u>2005</u> %	April <u>2010</u> %	<i>05-10</i> <u>change</u>
Total	47	40	-7
Men	48	40	-8
Women	46	41	-5
White, non-Hispanic	48	37	-11
Black, non-Hispanic	45	56	+11
18-29	40	34	-6
30-49	47	36	-11
50-64	52	43	-9
65+	50	53	+3
College grad+	63	47	-16
Some college	52	42	-10
HS or less	36	35	-1
Republican	49	46	-3
Conserv Rep	58	56	-2
Mod/Lib Rep	34	24	-10
Democrat	50	43	-7
Cons/Mod Dem	42	36	-6
Lib Dem	63	56	-7
Independent	45	36	-9

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q38.

African Americans are now significantly more likely than whites to say the choice of the next justice is of personal importance. A majority of blacks (56%) now say this, compared with just 37% of whites. Older Americans are also more likely than others to say the choice of the next member of the court is very important to them. A majority (53%) of those age 65 and older say this, compared with just 43% of those ages 50-64 and only 35% of those younger than 50.

SECTION 4: FOREIGN POLICY

By roughly three-to-one (71%-23%), most Americans approve of Obama's decision to sign an arms control treaty with Russia, reducing the number of nuclear weapons in both countries. A somewhat smaller majority (64%) also approves of Obama's recent declaration that the U.S. will not use nuclear weapons against countries that do not possess them; 30% disapprove of this policy. Support is far lower for Obama's decision to stop the development of any new nuclear weapons by the United States; on this decision as many approve (47%) as disapprove (47%).

<i>Obama's decision to...</i>	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Sign treaty w/ Russia reducing number of weapons in both countries	71	23	6=100
Declare the U.S. won't use nuclear weapons on countries without them	64	30	6=100
Stop the U.S. from developing new nuclear weapons	47	47	6=100

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q29a-c. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While Democrats are the most supportive of Obama's nuclear policy decisions, majorities of Republicans and independents also approve of both the arms treaty with Russia and the decision to not use nuclear weapons on non-nuclear countries. However, there is sharp partisan disagreement over Obama's decision to stop the development of any new nuclear weapons; Republicans disapprove of this decision by more than two-to-one (66% to 28%), while Democrats approve of it by only a slightly narrower margin (61% vs. 34%). Independents are divided with 48% saying they approve and 47% saying they disapprove.

<i>% approve</i>	<u>Treaty with Russia</u> %	<u>No nuclear attack on non-nuclear countries</u> %	<u>No new nuclear weapons</u> %
Total	71	64	47
Republican	59	52	28
Democrat	82	75	61
Independent	73	63	48
College grad+	76	70	53
Some college	70	64	46
HS or less	69	59	43
Men	72	57	46
Women	70	70	47
<i>Heard...</i>			
A lot	67	59	47
A little	74	67	48
Nothing at all	71	63	45

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q29a-c.

College graduates are somewhat more supportive of all three nuclear policy decisions than are those with lower levels of education. And women (70% approve) are more likely than men (57% approve) to say they approve of Obama's decision to not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries. Notably, those who have heard a lot about Obama's recent nuclear policy

decisions express about the same views on the three decisions tested as do those who have heard a little or nothing at all about them.

Is Obama Tough Enough?

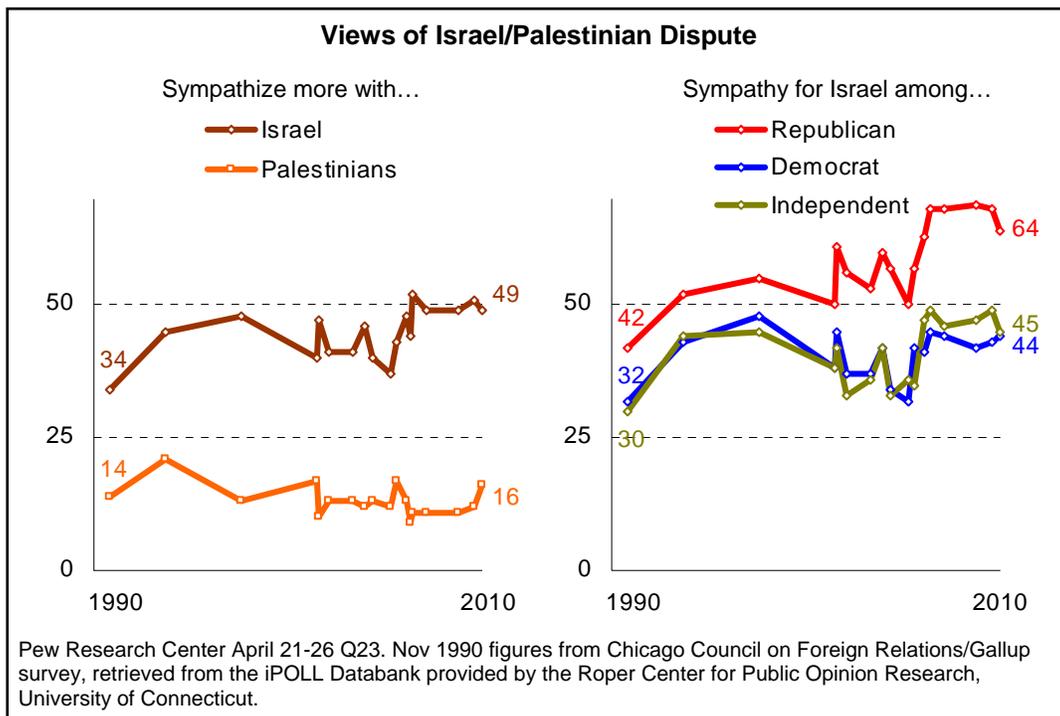
Just under half (47%) of Americans say that Barack Obama is not tough enough in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues – unchanged from last November. Nearly as many (41%) say Obama’s approach to foreign issues is about right, while just 2% say he is too tough. There is an overwhelming partisan divide on this issue – 70% of Republicans say Obama is not tough enough, while 66% of Democrats believe Obama handles foreign policy and security issues about right. Just over half (52%) of independents say Obama isn’t tough enough, while 37% say he strikes the right balance.

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Not tough enough	47	70	25	52
About right	41	18	66	37
Too tough	2	2	2	3
Don’t know	10	10	7	8
	100	100	100	100

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q4.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opinion of U.S. Mideast Policy

In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians a plurality of Americans continue to sympathize more with Israel (49%) than with the Palestinians (16%); 12% say they sympathize with neither side, 4% with both. The public has long expressed more sympathy for Israel than for the Palestinians and the findings from the current survey are little changed from recent years.



As has consistently been the case, more Republicans (64%) than Democrats (44%) or independents (45%) say they sympathize with Israel. Republicans have been at least 10 points more sympathetic toward Israel than Democrats or independents in each Pew Research Center survey fielded over the past decade. And support for Israel is especially strong among conservative Republicans: by an overwhelming 70%-7% margin, conservative Republicans say they sympathize more with Israel than with the Palestinians.

About two-thirds (65%) of white evangelicals say they sympathize more with Israel, while just 9% sympathize more with the Palestinians. Nearly half of Catholics (48%) and black Protestants (47%) sympathize more with Israel, as do 39% of white mainline Protestants; comparable percentages of all three groups sympathize with the Palestinians (16% of Catholics, 18% of black Protestants and 16% of white mainline Protestants). The religiously unaffiliated are more divided in their views: 37% sympathize more with Israel, 26% with the Palestinians.

A 47% plurality says Obama is striking the right balance in dealing with the situation in the Middle East, while 21% say he is favoring the Palestinians too much and 7% say he is favoring Israel too much. These figures are largely unchanged from last November, though the percent saying Obama favors the Palestinians has increased from 16% to 21%.

Republicans are critical of Obama’s handling of the situation in the Middle East. Just 28% of Republicans say Obama is striking the right balance while 38% say he favors the Palestinians too much, and 6% say he favors Israel too much. Democrats are far more supportive, with 66% saying Obama strikes the right balance. Fewer than one-in-ten Democrats say he favors either the Palestinians (7%) or Israel (8%) too much. A plurality of independents (47%) say Obama is striking the right balance; among independents who think his approach is unbalanced more say he favors the Palestinians too much (21%) than say he favors Israel too much (7%).

	Favors Palestinians <u>too much</u> %	Favors Israel <u>too much</u> %	Strikes the right <u>balance</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	21	7	47	26=100
Republican	38	6	28	28=100
Democrat	7	8	66	19=100
Independent	21	7	47	25=100
Protestant	24	7	44	26=100
White evangelical	37	5	34	24=100
White mainline	19	7	48	26=100
Black Protestant	5	8	63	25=100
Catholic	16	5	54	24=100
White Catholic	18	7	49	26=100
Unaffiliated	11	9	56	23=100

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q24.
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 1,546 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from April 21-26, 2010 (1,006 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 540 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 203 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. 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:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Plus or minus...</u>
Total sample.....	1,546.....	3.0 percentage points
Form 1.....	779.....	4.5 percentage points
Form 2.....	767.....	4.5 percentage points
Republicans.....	413.....	6.0 percentage points
Democrats.....	499.....	5.5 percentage points
Independents.....	554.....	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
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
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PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL

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

	<u>Approve</u> %	Dis- <u>approve</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
TOTAL	47	42	11	1546
SEX				
Men	46	44	10	740
Women	49	39	12	806
AGE				
18-49	48	39	13	651
50+	46	45	9	878
DETAILED AGE				
18-29	51	33	16	218
30-49	46	42	11	433
50-64	47	44	9	505
65+	45	46	9	373
SEX BY AGE				
Men 18-49	46	42	12	326
Men 50+	45	46	9	409
Women 18-49	50	36	14	325
Women 50+	48	43	9	469
RACE				
White NH	38	50	12	1172
Black NH	88	4	8	171
Hispanic	66	29	6	83
EDUCATION				
College grad	51	41	8	586
Some college	43	45	12	395
HS or less	47	40	13	562
INCOME				
\$75,000+	43	50	6	440
\$30,000-\$74,999	44	42	14	496
<\$30,000	55	32	13	423
DETAILED INCOME				
\$100,000+	43	50	6	252
\$75,000-\$99,999	43	51	6	188
\$50,000-\$74,999	43	47	10	228
\$30,000-\$49,999	44	38	18	268
<\$30,000	55	32	13	423
REGISTERED VOTER	49	43	9	1258
PARTY ID				
Republican	18	75	7	413
Democrat	79	13	8	499
Independent	41	46	14	554
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY				
Conservative Republican	13	82	5	302
Mod/Lib Republican	31	56	12	100
Mod/Cons Democrat	74	14	12	303
Liberal Democrat	88	10	1	178

PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL (CONT.)

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>approve</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	%	%	%	
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE				
Total White NH Prot.	32	56	12	638
White NH evang. Prot.	25	64	12	348
White NH mainline Prot.	42	46	12	289
Total Catholic	54	37	9	309
White NH Cath.	46	44	10	243
Unaffiliated	52	34	14	241
REGION				
Northeast	54	35	11	279
Midwest	44	45	11	375
South	44	46	10	577
West	51	36	13	315
MARITAL STATUS				
Married	42	49	9	852
Not married	53	33	13	685
MARITAL STATUS BY SEX				
Married men	39	53	8	446
Married women	45	45	10	406
Unmarried men	54	33	13	292
Unmarried women	53	34	13	393
EMPLOYMENT				
Employed	47	43	10	881
Not employed	48	39	13	656
AMONG REPUBLICANS				
Men	16	75	9	198
Women	20	75	5	215
18-49	23	69	8	178
50+	12	83	5	232
AMONG DEMOCRATS				
Men	84	9	7	195
Women	75	16	9	304
18-49	76	15	10	201
50+	83	11	6	296
AMONG INDEPENDENTS				
Men	40	48	12	305
Women	41	43	16	249
18-49	44	41	15	232
50+	37	51	13	311

PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL (CONT.)

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

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	(N)
	%	%	%	
AMONG WHITES				
Men	36	52	12	556
Women	40	47	13	616
18-49	36	49	15	448
50+	39	51	10	715
College grad	46	47	7	459
Some college or less	34	51	15	711
\$75,000+	37	57	6	355
\$30,000-\$74,999	37	49	15	382
<\$30,000	40	43	17	296
Republican	15	78	8	363
Democrat	71	19	10	309
Independent	34	52	15	444
East	46	41	13	220
Midwest	37	50	13	306
South	31	58	11	401
West	42	45	13	245

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
APRIL 2010 POLITICAL AND FUTURE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 April 21-26, 2010
 N=1546

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
December, 2008	13	83	4

¹ From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	March, 2002	50	40	10
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
August, 2008	21	74	5	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
July, 2008	19	74	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
June, 2008	19	76	5	March, 2001	47	45	8
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
March, 2008	22	72	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
October, 2007	28	66	6	June, 2000	47	45	8
February, 2007	30	61	9	April, 2000	48	43	9
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
December, 2006	28	65	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
July, 2006	30	65	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
May, 2006*	29	65	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	January, 1998	46	50	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	September, 1997	45	49	6
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	March, 1996	28	70	2
February, 2005	38	56	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
December, 2004	39	54	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
July, 2004	38	55	7	March, 1994	24	71	5
May, 2004	33	61	6	October, 1993	22	73	5
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	May, 1993	22	71	7
December, 2003	44	47	9	January, 1993	39	50	11
October, 2003	38	56	6	January, 1992	28	68	4
August, 2003	40	53	7	November, 1991	34	61	5
April 8, 2003	50	41	9	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3
January, 2003	44	50	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	May, 1990	41	54	5
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1989	45	50	5
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
May, 2002	44	44	12				

ASK ALL:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] How about [NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]

		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The economy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
	Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
	Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
	Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
	Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
	Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20
b.	Health care policy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	40	51	9
	Mar 10-14, 2010	39	52	9
	Jan 6-10, 2010	38	52	10
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	43	47	10
	Jul 22-26, 2009	42	43	14
	Apr 14-21, 2009	51	26	23
c.	The nation's immigration policy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	47	24
	Jan 6-10, 2010	30	50	21
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	48	21
d.	The situation in Afghanistan			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	41	42	17
	Mar 10-14, 2010	51	35	15
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	43	12
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	36	49	15
	Jul 22-26, 2009	47	33	19
e.	Dealing with Iran			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	43	19
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	43	40	17
f.	Energy policy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	43	34	23
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	35	20
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	50	34	16
	Jul 22-26, 2009	46	31	22

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Do you think Barack Obama is too tough, not tough enough or about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>		Oct 28-Nov 8 <u>2009</u>	June 10-14 <u>2009</u>
2	Too tough	3	2
47	Not tough enough	47	38
41	About right	43	51
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	8

NO QUESTION 5

ASK ALL:

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.6 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2

Q.6 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 ²	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.7 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (<i>RVs</i>)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek (RVs)</i>	35	13	49	3

2 Earlier trends available from Gallup.

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Some people think of American society as divided into two groups, the “haves” and the “have-nots,” while others think it’s incorrect to think of America that way. Do you, yourself, think of America as divided into haves and have-nots, or don’t you think of America that way?

	<u>Yes, divided</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	53	5
Mid-April, 2009	35	62	3
Early October, 2008	44	53	3
January, 2008	43	54	3
July, 2007	48	48	4
September, 2006	41	55	4
Early October, 2005	48	50	2
Late March, 2005	38	59	3
Late February, 2004	38	59	3
June, 2001	44	53	3
April, 1998 <i>Gallup</i>	39	59	2
July, 1988 <i>Gallup</i>	26	71	3
Aug, 1984 <i>CBS/NY Times</i> ³¹		61	8

ASK ALL:

Q.9 If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in, the haves or the have-nots?

	<u>Haves</u>	<u>Have-nots</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	45	36	9	10
Mid-April, 2009	48	36	7	9
Early October, 2008	47	38	8	7
January, 2008	50	34	10	6
July, 2007	45	34	13	8
September, 2006	52	29	10	9
Early October, 2005	47	38	11	4
Late March, 2005	48	34	8	10
Late February, 2004	59	27	7	7
June, 2001	52	32	10	6
April, 1998 <i>Gallup</i>	67	24	6	3
July, 1988 <i>Gallup</i>	59	17	15	9

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: which party could do a better job (REPEAT ITEM)]

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Dealing with banks and financial institutions Apr 21-26, 2010	36	36	7	11	11
b. Improving the job situation					
Apr 21-26, 2010	36	37	8	9	10
September, 2006	29	47	6	5	13
March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7
October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8
c. Reducing the federal budget deficit					
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
Early October, 2005 ³	29	47	6	10	8
June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15
d. Dealing with immigration					
Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12
Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11
e. Dealing with the nation's energy problems					
Apr 21-26, 2010	32	40	8	9	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	44	8	6	10
Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	7	9	12
February, 2008	23	57	5	5	10
October, 2006	28	44	5	6	17
September, 2006	27	47	4	7	15
February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10
Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11
May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13
f. Making wise decisions about foreign policy					
Apr 21-26, 2010	39	34	8	8	11
August 27-30, 2009	31	44	7	8	9

³ In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

Q.10f CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2008	40	45	4	4	7
July, 2004	38	40	4	4	14
Early September, 2002	40	30	10	6	14
May, 2001	39	34	11	3	13
June, 1999	37	36	7	6	14
March, 1999	42	37	6	4	11
Early September, 1998	40	31	11	5	13
March, 1998	41	33	12	4	10
October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11
July, 1994 ⁴	51	31	4	6	8
December, 1993	49	23	--	10	18
May, 1990	39	28	--	17	16

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Thinking about the Republican Party, who do YOU think of as the leader of the Republican Party these days... **[SINGLE RESPONSE, DO NOT READ OPTIONS. USE PRECODES AS APPROPRIATE; ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>		Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
8	John McCain	9	11
4	Sarah Palin	2	1
3	Mitt Romney	1	1
2	Rush Limbaugh	3	5
2	Newt Gingrich	1	2
1	Mitch McConnell	1	1
1	George W. Bush	1	*
1	Michael Steele	1	2
1	John Boehner	*	*
1	Mike Huckabee	1	*
*	Glenn Beck	*	*
*	Dick Cheney	1	*
4	Other	4	4
18	Nobody is	22	15
52	Don't know/Refused	55	57

⁴ In July 1994 and May 1990, the item was worded "Making wise decisions about the country's defense policies."

NO QUESTIONS 12-22

ASK ALL:

Now, thinking about foreign policy and national security...

Q.23 In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Palestinians</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	49	16	4	12	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	12	4	14	19
January 7-11, 2009	49	11	5	15	20
May, 2007	49	11	5	17	18
August, 2006	52	11	5	15	17
July, 2006	44	9	5	20	22
May, 2006	48	13	4	14	20
Late October, 2005	43	17	5	16	19
July, 2005	37	12	5	19	27
July, 2004	40	13	7	18	22
Late February, 2004	46	12	8	15	19
Mid-July, 2003	41	13	8	18	20
April, 2002	41	13	6	21	19
Mid-October, 2001	47	10	8	18	17
Early September, 2001	40	17	6	23	14
September, 1997	48	13	5	16	18
September, 1993	45	21	3	18	12
<i>Chicago CFR 1990</i>	34	14	7	26	20
<i>Chicago CFR 1982</i>	40	17	8	19	16
<i>Chicago CFR 1978⁵</i>	45	14	9	18	15

ASK ALL:

Q.24 Thinking about the situation in the Middle East these days, do you think Barack Obama is... **[READ, RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>		Oct 28-Nov 8 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>
7	Favoring Israel too much	7	6
21	Favoring the Palestinians too much	16	17
47	Striking about the right balance	51	62
25	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	26	14

NO QUESTIONS 25-27

⁵ In the 1978 Chicago Council on Foreign Relations survey conducted by the Gallup Organization, results are based on respondents who said they had "heard or read about the situation in the Middle East", which represented 87% of the public. As a context note, in both the 1978 and 1982 CCFR/Gallup surveys, this question followed a broader question: "In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with Israel or more with the Arab nations?" and in 1982, a question regarding "U.S. military aid and arms sales to Israel".

ASK ALL:

Q.28 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about Barack Obama’s recent decisions regarding nuclear weapons policy? Have you heard... **[READ]**

Apr 21-26

2010

- 21 A lot
- 49 A little
- 29 Nothing at all
- 2 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

Q.29 As I read some recent decisions Barack Obama has made regarding nuclear weapons policy, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of each decision. First, do you approve or disapprove of Obama’s decision... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** do you approve or disapprove of Obama’s decision **(REPEAT ITEM)**]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. To sign a treaty with Russia reducing the number of nuclear weapons in both countries Apr 21-26, 2010	71	23	6
b. To declare that the U.S. will not use nuclear weapons against countries that do not have nuclear weapons Apr 21-26, 2010	64	30	6
c. To stop the U.S. from developing NEW nuclear weapons Apr 21-26, 2010	47	47	6

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Thinking about the economic stimulus passed by Congress last year do you think the stimulus has helped the job situation, or has it NOT helped the job situation?

Apr 21-26

2010

- 33 Helped the job situation
- 62 Has NOT helped the job situation
- 5 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

Q.31 And, thinking about the loans the federal government provided to troubled banks and financial institutions, which statement comes closer to your view? **[READ]**

Apr 21-26

2010

- 42 The loans HELPED prevent a more severe economic crisis **[OR]**
- 49 The loans did NOT help prevent a more severe economic crisis
- 8 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

Q.32 Since the crisis in the financial markets in the fall of 2008, how much progress has the government made in fixing the problems that caused the crisis **[READ]**?

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>2009</u> ⁶
3	A great deal of progress	2
28	Some progress	26
42	Just a little progress [OR]	46
25	No progress at all	23
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

NO QUESTIONS 33-34

ASK ALL:

Thinking now about the Supreme Court...

Q.35 In your view, do you think the current Supreme Court is conservative, middle of the road, or liberal?

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>		July <u>2007</u>
24	Conservative	36
36	Middle of the road	35
24	Liberal	14
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15

ASK ALL:

Q.36 Just your impression...over the past two decades, do you think the Supreme Court has **[READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 & 2, KEEP ITEM 3 LAST]**?

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>	
19	Become more conservative
28	Become more liberal [OR]
43	Has it stayed about the same
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.37 In making his appointments to the Supreme Court, should President Obama nominate people who will make the court more liberal, people who will make it more conservative, or people who will keep the court about the same as it is now?

Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>		-----Bush-----			Clinton
		Sept <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u> ⁷	June <u>2005</u>	Late <i>Gallup</i> March <u>1993</u>
27	More liberal	24	24	28	29
28	More conservative	30	27	29	29
35	About the same as it is now	39	40	35	41
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	9	8	7

⁶ In October, 2009 the question read: "Since the crisis in the financial markets last fall, how much progress has the government made in fixing the problems that caused the crisis...?"

⁷ For March 2005 through July 2005 the question read: "In making his next appointment to the Supreme Court, should President Bush choose someone who will make the court..." March, 1993 asked about President Clinton's next appointment.

ASK ALL:

Q.38 How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally? **[READ]**

		-----Bush-----				
		Nov	Mid-	July	June	Late
		2005	Sept	2005	2005	March
		2005	2005 ⁸	2005	2005	2005
Apr 21-26		47	48	47	47	38
<u>2010</u>						
40	Very important	47	48	47	47	38
32	Somewhat important	28	34	30	29	36
14	Not too important [OR]	13	9	14	14	15
11	Not at all important	11	7	8	8	8
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	1	2	3

QUESTIONS 39-56 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

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

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

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Apr 8-11, 2010	23	32	38	5	*	2	17	13
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Yearly Totals								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6

⁸

In mid-September 2005 the question was asked about both choices: "How important are the President's choices of the next Supreme Court Justice to you personally?"

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
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	--	--	--	--	--