



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
For The People & The Press

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## No Partisan Gap in Attention to Campaign's Early Stage

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# Interest in Campaign News On Par With 2007

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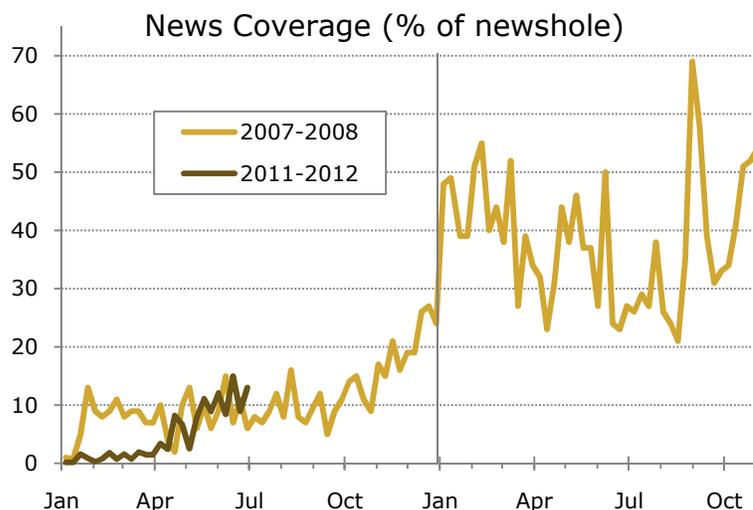
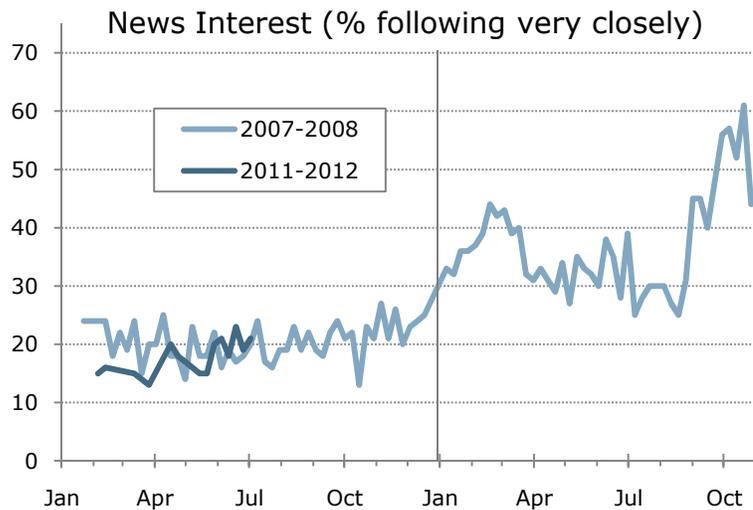
## No Partisan Gap in Attention to Campaign's Early Stage Interest in Campaign News On Par With 2007

Public interest in the presidential campaign is about as high as it was four years ago, despite the fact that only one party currently has a competitive nomination contest. And while the focus this year has been on the GOP's race, Democrats express about as much interest in 2012 candidates as do Republicans.

Overall, 21% of the public say they followed news about the potential presidential candidates very closely last week, according to the latest weekly News Interest Index survey conducted June 30-July 3 among 1,001 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Interest has been at about this level for the past several months. At a comparable point in the presidential race four years ago, 20% said they were very closely following news about the candidates hoping to represent their parties in the 2008 election. As is the case today, the level of interest fluctuated only slightly week to week in 2007.

### Early Campaign News Interest and Coverage: 2012 vs. 2008



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. News interest figures from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. News coverage figures from the Project for Excellence in Journalism.

News coverage of the 2012 campaign, which has increased in recent weeks, also is about the same today as it was at this point in the previous campaign, according to data collected by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). Last week, coverage of the campaign accounted for 13% of the newshole; only the economy – combined with the debate over whether to raise the national debt limit – drew more coverage (a total of 19%). Michele Bachmann was the top campaign newsmaker last week, according to PEJ. (See [\*“Obama and Bachmann Drive Economic and Election Coverage.”\*](#))

Earlier this year, a series of major breaking stories – such as the Gabrielle Giffords' shooting, the upheaval in the Middle East, the disasters in Japan and the killing of Osama bin Laden – dominated the news and the public's interest. At this early stage in the campaign, relatively small numbers say they are following election news more closely than other major stories. For example, 9% say they followed news about the candidates most closely last week, while 22% say news about the condition of the U.S. economy was their top story and 13% cite the debate in Washington over the federal deficit and the national debt.

Over the past month, interest among Republicans in the presidential candidates has been higher than it was in June 2007: Since the beginning of June, an average of 25% of Republicans have been tracking news about the candidates very closely each week, compared with an average of 18% during the same period four years ago.

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### Republican Interest Up Slightly; Dems Comparable to Early 2007

| <i>Followed news about campaign "very closely"</i> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Rep</b> | <b>Dem</b> | <b>Ind</b> |
|--|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
|  | %            | %          | %          | %          |
| June 2007  | 18           | 18         | 23         | 15         |
| June 2011  | 20           | 25         | 22         | 18         |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Figures are averages for five surveys conducted between June 1 through July 2, 2007 and five surveys conducted between June 2 and July 3, 2011.

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Despite the focus on GOP candidates this year, Democrats are expressing about the same level of interest in the presidential candidates as they did during June 2007. Over the past five weeks, 22% of Democrats, on average, have been following news about the candidates very closely, which is virtually identical to interest four years ago (23%). Among independents, an average of 18% over this time period say they have followed news about the candidates very closely; 15% said this for the same span in 2007.

In the new survey, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party express far more interest in the presidential candidates than do other Republicans. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party say they are tracking news about the candidates very closely,

compared with just 19% of Republicans and Republican leaners who have no opinion of the Tea Party or disagree with the movement.

## Many Say Campaign Getting Too Much Coverage

A plurality of Americans (41%) say news organizations are giving the right amount of coverage to possible candidates for the 2012 elections, while 29% say they are giving too much coverage to election news. That is up slightly from 22% in April. Another 16% say the press is giving too little coverage to the candidates.

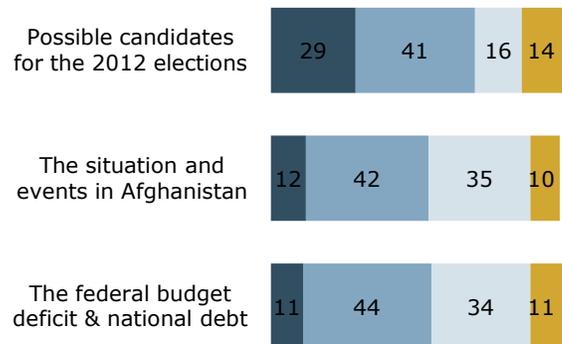
Pluralities also say news organizations are giving the right amount of coverage to the situation in Afghanistan (42%) and news about the federal budget deficit and national debt (44%). Relatively few see either story receiving too much coverage (12% Afghanistan, 11% federal budget deficit and national debt.)

Republicans are more satisfied with the amount of campaign news coverage than they were in April. Currently, 54% of Republicans say possible presidential candidates are receiving the right amount of coverage, while just 17% say they are getting too little coverage. In April, 40% said the candidates were getting the right amount of coverage, while nearly as many (34%) said they were being under-covered.

By contrast, more Democrats and independents say the 2012 candidates are drawing too much coverage. Currently, 37% of Democrats and 32% of independents say

### Right Amount of Coverage?

■ Too much ■ Right amount ■ Too little ■ DK



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 30-July 3, 2011.

### Partisan Assessments of Amount of Press Going Toward 2012 Elections

|   | Republicans |     | Democrats |     | Independents |     |
|---|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|--------------|-----|
|   | Apr         | Jun | Apr       | Jun | Apr          | Jun |
| Coverage of possible 2012 candidates... | %           | %   | %         | %   | %            | %   |
| Too much                                | 20          | 20  | 24        | 37  | 23           | 32  |
| Right amount                            | 40          | 54  | 41        | 36  | 39           | 39  |
| Too little                              | 34          | 17  | 26        | 17  | 32           | 15  |
| Don't know                              | 7           | 10  | 9         | 10  | 6            | 14  |
| N                                       | 100         | 100 | 100       | 100 | 100          | 100 |
|   | 276         | 272 | 288       | 324 | 349          | 300 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 30-July 3, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

the possible presidential candidates are receiving too much coverage, up from 24% and 23%, respectively, in April.

## The Week's News

News about the economy's continued troubles topped the public's news interest last week with 22% saying this was the news they followed most closely. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they followed news about the economic situation very closely, a level essentially unchanged in recent weeks.

According to PEJ, coverage focused on both economic concerns and the 2012 elections. While the elections accounted for 13% of

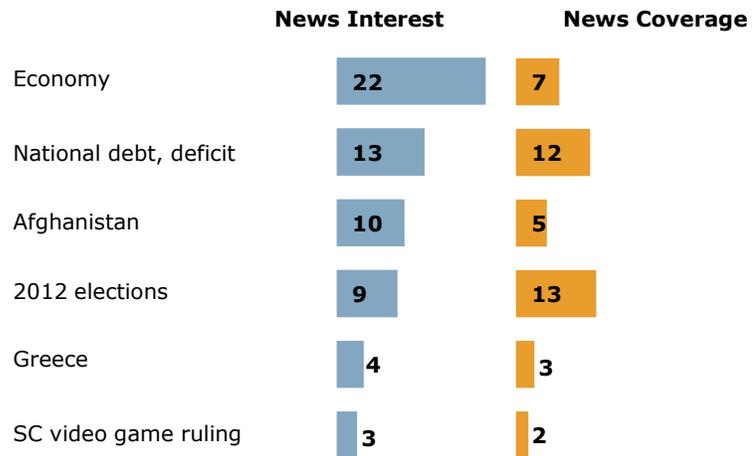
coverage, economic story lines accounted for a total of 19%. The bulk of coverage focused on the debt limit discussions underway in Washington (12%), while more general economic news accounted for 7%.

More than one-in-ten (13%) say they followed the discussions in Washington over whether to raise the debt limit more closely than any other major story. About three-in-ten (29%) say they followed these developments very closely. In mid-June, 24% said they were following the debate over whether to raise the federal debt limit very closely.

One-in-ten (10%) say news about the situation in Afghanistan was their top story; 22% say they followed news about Afghanistan very closely. This news accounted for 5% of coverage.

Smaller numbers cite the financial crisis and protests in Greece (4%) or the Supreme Court ruling that overturned a California ban on selling violent videogames to minors

### News Interest and Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, June 30-July 3, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, June 27-July 3, 2011.

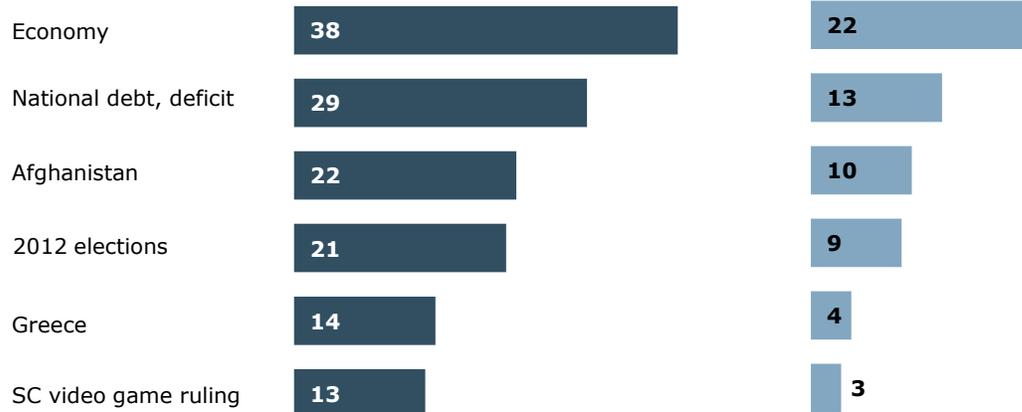
(3%) as their top story. Just 14% say they followed news about the Greek protests very closely, while 13% say they followed news about the court ruling this closely. Two weeks ago, the same number said they were following the court's decision dismissing a class action lawsuit against Wal-Mart very closely. The protests in Greece made up 3% of coverage, while the Supreme Court ruling accounted for 2%.

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## News Interest

*% following each story very closely*

*Which one story did you follow most closely?*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. June 30-July 3, 2011

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These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected June 27-July 3, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected June 30-July 3 from a nationally representative sample of 1,001 adults.

## About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to [www.journalism.org](http://www.journalism.org).) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted June 30-July 3, 2011, among a national sample of 1,001 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (670 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 142 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 sample sizes and 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 | 1,001              | 4.0 percentage points    |
| Republicans  | 272                | 7.5 percentage points    |
| Democrats    | 324                | 7.0 percentage points    |
| Independents | 300                | 7.0 percentage points    |

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

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**June 30-July 3, 2011 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,001**

**ASK ALL:**

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

|   | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The current situation and events in Afghanistan  |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| June 30-July 3, 2011  | 22                      | 34                        | 24                         | 20                            | 1                        |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| June 23-26, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan</i>   | 27                      | 32                        | 20                         | 20                            | 1                        |
| June 2-5, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>  | 20                      | 35                        | 23                         | 21                            | 1                        |
| December 16-19, 2010: <i>The Obama administration's review of the Afghanistan war strategy</i>  | 17                      | 26                        | 25                         | 31                            | 1                        |
| December 9-12, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>   | 24                      | 31                        | 22                         | 22                            | 1                        |
| November 18-21, 2010  | 27                      | 33                        | 21                         | 18                            | 1                        |
| October 21-24, 2010   | 21                      | 34                        | 23                         | 21                            | 1                        |
| October 7-10, 2010  | 21                      | 36                        | 20                         | 22                            | 1                        |
| September 30-October 3, 2010  | 23                      | 37                        | 23                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| September 23-26, 2010   | 29                      | 40                        | 19                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| September 9-12, 2010  | 30                      | 33                        | 20                         | 17                            | *                        |
| July 29-August 1, 2010  | 34                      | 35                        | 22                         | 9                             | *                        |
| July 15-18, 2010  | 22                      | 33                        | 23                         | 22                            | *                        |
| July 8-11, 2010   | 23                      | 32                        | 24                         | 20                            | 1                        |
| July 1-5, 2010  | 29                      | 34                        | 23                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| June 17-20, 2010  | 21                      | 30                        | 27                         | 22                            | *                        |
| May 20-23, 2010   | 22                      | 33                        | 25                         | 20                            | *                        |
| April 9-12, 2010  | 21                      | 29                        | 27                         | 22                            | 1                        |
| June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i> | 28                      | 31                        | 19                         | 21                            | 1                        |
| February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>  | 24                      | 36                        | 21                         | 19                            | *                        |
| January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>   | 24                      | 31                        | 27                         | 17                            | 1                        |
| December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>  | 35                      | 33                        | 18                         | 13                            | *                        |
| December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>   | 43                      | 33                        | 14                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>   | 29                      | 31                        | 17                         | 22                            | 1                        |
| November 13-16, 2009  | 29                      | 28                        | 20                         | 22                            | 1                        |

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

|   | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>  | 22                  | 35                    | 24                     | 18                        | *                              |
| October 30-November 2, 2009   | 24                  | 32                    | 21                     | 22                        | *                              |
| October 23-26, 2009   | 32                  | 29                    | 21                     | 18                        | *                              |
| October 16-19, 2009   | 25                  | 31                    | 20                     | 24                        | *                              |
| September 25-28, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>                              | 27                  | 40                    | 17                     | 16                        | *                              |
| September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>   | 26                  | 33                    | 25                     | 16                        | *                              |
| September 11-14, 2009   | 25                  | 35                    | 22                     | 18                        | 1                              |
| September 3-6, 2009   | 23                  | 33                    | 23                     | 21                        | 0                              |
| August 7-10, 2009   | 24                  | 32                    | 23                     | 21                        | 1                              |
| March 20-23, 2009   | 24                  | 32                    | 22                     | 22                        | *                              |
| February 20-23, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i> | 27                  | 29                    | 24                     | 19                        | 1                              |
| January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>   | 26                  | 34                    | 24                     | 16                        | *                              |
| January 2-4, 2009   | 22                  | 33                    | 23                     | 21                        | 1                              |
| October 24-27, 2008   | 28                  | 32                    | 22                     | 17                        | 1                              |
| October 10-13, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>                               | 19                  | 34                    | 29                     | 18                        | *                              |
| September 12-15, 2008   | 21                  | 34                    | 25                     | 19                        | 1                              |
| August 29-31, 2008  | 18                  | 27                    | 32                     | 23                        | *                              |
| July 18-21, 2008  | 27                  | 33                    | 24                     | 16                        | *                              |
| July 11-14, 2008  | 19                  | 28                    | 29                     | 23                        | 1                              |
| July 3-7, 2008  | 19                  | 28                    | 32                     | 21                        | *                              |
| June 20-23, 2008  | 20                  | 30                    | 30                     | 20                        | *                              |
| Late July, 2002: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>   | 41                  | 38                    | 13                     | 7                         | 1                              |
| June, 2002  | 38                  | 32                    | 20                     | 9                         | 1                              |
| April, 2002   | 39                  | 39                    | 13                     | 8                         | 1                              |
| Early April, 2002   | 45                  | 37                    | 12                     | 5                         | 1                              |
| February, 2002  | 47                  | 39                    | 8                      | 5                         | 1                              |
| January, 2002   | 51                  | 35                    | 9                      | 4                         | 1                              |
| December, 2001  | 44                  | 38                    | 12                     | 5                         | 1                              |
| Mid-November, 2001  | 49                  | 36                    | 11                     | 3                         | 1                              |
| Early November, 2001  | 45                  | 36                    | 12                     | 6                         | 1                              |
| Mid-October, 2001   | 51                  | 35                    | 10                     | 3                         | 1                              |

b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy

|                        |    |    |    |    |   |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
| June 30-July 3, 2011   | 38 | 32 | 13 | 16 | 1 |
| June 23-26, 2011       | 37 | 29 | 15 | 19 | * |
| June 16-19, 2011       | 39 | 33 | 14 | 13 | * |
| June 9-12, 2011        | 39 | 30 | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| June 2-5, 2011         | 35 | 34 | 17 | 14 | * |
| May 19-22, 2011        | 33 | 34 | 17 | 16 | * |
| May 12-15, 2011        | 32 | 32 | 17 | 18 | 2 |
| May 5-8, 2011          | 40 | 35 | 15 | 9  | 1 |
| April 21-25, 2011      | 41 | 33 | 12 | 14 | * |
| April 14-17, 2011      | 44 | 30 | 14 | 12 | 1 |
| April 7-10, 2011       | 46 | 30 | 14 | 10 | * |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 42 | 31 | 16 | 11 | 0 |
| March 24-27, 2011      | 36 | 32 | 17 | 15 | * |
| March 17-20, 2011      | 38 | 32 | 17 | 13 | * |
| March 10-13, 2011      | 40 | 30 | 16 | 13 | * |
| March 3-6, 2011        | 37 | 31 | 17 | 13 | 1 |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                              | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| February 24-27, 2011         | 49                      | 29                        | 11                         | 10                            | *                        |
| February 17-20, 2011         | 35                      | 33                        | 14                         | 17                            | *                        |
| February 10-13, 2011         | 36                      | 34                        | 13                         | 16                            | *                        |
| February 3-6, 2011           | 35                      | 37                        | 14                         | 14                            | *                        |
| January 20-23, 2011          | 37                      | 33                        | 14                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| January 13-16, 2011          | 37                      | 29                        | 15                         | 18                            | 1                        |
| January 6-9, 2011            | 39                      | 37                        | 11                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| December 16-19, 2010         | 39                      | 31                        | 14                         | 15                            | 2                        |
| December 9-12, 2010          | 39                      | 30                        | 14                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| December 2-5, 2010           | 52                      | 28                        | 11                         | 9                             | *                        |
| November 18-21, 2010         | 46                      | 31                        | 11                         | 11                            | *                        |
| November 11-14, 2010         | 38                      | 30                        | 15                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| November 4-7, 2010           | 44                      | 32                        | 11                         | 13                            | *                        |
| October 28-November 1, 2010  | 39                      | 34                        | 11                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| October 21-24, 2010          | 41                      | 29                        | 14                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| October 14-17, 2010          | 42                      | 33                        | 12                         | 13                            | *                        |
| October 7-10, 2010           | 36                      | 33                        | 15                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| September 30-October 3, 2010 | 43                      | 35                        | 10                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| September 23-26, 2010        | 43                      | 34                        | 13                         | 9                             | 1                        |
| September 16-19, 2010        | 37                      | 30                        | 16                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| September 2-6, 2010          | 43                      | 31                        | 13                         | 12                            | *                        |
| August 19-22, 2010           | 39                      | 31                        | 14                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| August 5-8, 2010             | 39                      | 33                        | 14                         | 13                            | 1                        |
| July 29-August 1, 2010       | 51                      | 33                        | 11                         | 5                             | *                        |
| July 22-25, 2010             | 46                      | 33                        | 14                         | 6                             | 1                        |
| July 15-18, 2010             | 37                      | 33                        | 14                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| July 8-11, 2010              | 36                      | 33                        | 15                         | 16                            | *                        |
| July 1-5, 2010               | 48                      | 30                        | 13                         | 8                             | *                        |
| June 24-27, 2010             | 37                      | 37                        | 15                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| June 17-20, 2010             | 38                      | 34                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                        |
| June 10-13, 2010             | 39                      | 35                        | 17                         | 9                             | *                        |
| June 3-6, 2010               | 35                      | 33                        | 16                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| May 27-30, 2010              | 43                      | 29                        | 13                         | 15                            | *                        |
| May 20-23, 2010              | 40                      | 35                        | 13                         | 11                            | *                        |
| May 13-16, 2010              | 49                      | 32                        | 11                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| May 7-10, 2010               | 42                      | 34                        | 11                         | 12                            | *                        |
| April 30-May 3, 2010         | 32                      | 37                        | 17                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| April 23-26, 2010            | 42                      | 31                        | 13                         | 14                            | *                        |
| April 16-19, 2010            | 40                      | 32                        | 14                         | 14                            | 0                        |
| April 9-12, 2010             | 40                      | 32                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                        |
| April 1-5, 2010              | 33                      | 34                        | 14                         | 19                            | *                        |
| March 19-22, 2010            | 41                      | 32                        | 14                         | 13                            | *                        |
| March 12-15, 2010            | 41                      | 35                        | 12                         | 12                            | *                        |
| March 5-8, 2010              | 40                      | 34                        | 12                         | 13                            | *                        |
| February 26-March 1, 2010    | 31                      | 33                        | 17                         | 19                            | *                        |
| February 19-22, 2010         | 38                      | 34                        | 15                         | 12                            | *                        |
| February 12-15, 2010         | 35                      | 34                        | 15                         | 16                            | *                        |
| February 5-8, 2010           | 43                      | 36                        | 13                         | 9                             | *                        |
| January 29-February 1, 2010  | 45                      | 32                        | 13                         | 10                            | *                        |
| January 22-25, 2010          | 41                      | 34                        | 14                         | 10                            | *                        |
| January 15-18, 2010          | 37                      | 38                        | 14                         | 11                            | *                        |
| January 8-11, 2010           | 39                      | 33                        | 15                         | 12                            | *                        |
| December 18-21, 2009         | 45                      | 31                        | 14                         | 10                            | 0                        |
| December 11-14, 2009         | 42                      | 31                        | 14                         | 13                            | *                        |
| December 4-7, 2009           | 41                      | 36                        | 13                         | 9                             | 1                        |
| November 13-16, 2009         | 38                      | 33                        | 14                         | 15                            | *                        |
| October 30-November 2, 2009  | 34                      | 32                        | 17                         | 16                            | *                        |
| October 23-26, 2009          | 44                      | 30                        | 15                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| October 9-12, 2009           | 41                      | 29                        | 16                         | 13                            | *                        |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                             | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 2-5, 2009           | 44                      | 30                        | 15                         | 11                            | 0                              |
| September 25-28, 2009       | 44                      | 37                        | 10                         | 10                            | *                              |
| September 18-21, 2009       | 44                      | 34                        | 15                         | 7                             | *                              |
| September 11-14, 2009       | 45                      | 32                        | 14                         | 9                             | *                              |
| September 3-6, 2009         | 41                      | 31                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                              |
| August 28-31, 2009          | 45                      | 30                        | 13                         | 12                            | 1                              |
| August 21-24, 2009          | 50                      | 27                        | 13                         | 10                            | 1                              |
| August 14-17, 2009          | 41                      | 37                        | 11                         | 12                            | *                              |
| August 7-10, 2009           | 42                      | 34                        | 13                         | 10                            | *                              |
| July 31-August 3, 2009      | 46                      | 34                        | 11                         | 8                             | *                              |
| July 24-27, 2009            | 45                      | 35                        | 12                         | 8                             | *                              |
| July 17-20, 2009            | 43                      | 35                        | 11                         | 11                            | 1                              |
| July 10-13, 2009            | 37                      | 38                        | 13                         | 11                            | *                              |
| July 2-5, 2009              | 38                      | 35                        | 15                         | 12                            | *                              |
| June 19-22, 2009            | 42                      | 33                        | 15                         | 10                            | *                              |
| June 12-15, 2009            | 41                      | 35                        | 12                         | 12                            | *                              |
| June 5-8, 2009              | 41                      | 34                        | 11                         | 14                            | *                              |
| May 29-June 1, 2009         | 43                      | 37                        | 11                         | 8                             | *                              |
| May 21-24, 2009             | 44                      | 35                        | 13                         | 9                             | *                              |
| May 15-18, 2009             | 44                      | 35                        | 12                         | 8                             | *                              |
| May 8-11, 2009              | 42                      | 34                        | 12                         | 12                            | *                              |
| May 1-4, 2009               | 47                      | 36                        | 11                         | 5                             | 1                              |
| April 17-20, 2009           | 52                      | 30                        | 10                         | 7                             | 1                              |
| April 9-13, 2009            | 48                      | 29                        | 13                         | 10                            | 0                              |
| March 27-30, 2009           | 48                      | 32                        | 10                         | 10                            | *                              |
| March 20-23, 2009           | 52                      | 34                        | 8                          | 6                             | *                              |
| March 13-16, 2009           | 48                      | 33                        | 9                          | 10                            | *                              |
| February 27-March 2, 2009   | 56                      | 30                        | 8                          | 6                             | *                              |
| February 13-16, 2009        | 55                      | 29                        | 10                         | 6                             | *                              |
| January 30-February 2, 2009 | 52                      | 31                        | 12                         | 5                             | *                              |
| January 23-26, 2009         | 57                      | 30                        | 8                          | 5                             | 0                              |
| January 16-19, 2009         | 43                      | 35                        | 13                         | 9                             | *                              |
| January 2-4, 2009           | 42                      | 36                        | 15                         | 7                             | *                              |
| December 12-15, 2008        | 51                      | 33                        | 9                          | 7                             | *                              |
| December 5-8, 2008          | 42                      | 38                        | 13                         | 7                             | *                              |
| November 21-24, 2008        | 59                      | 24                        | 9                          | 8                             | *                              |
| November 14-17, 2008        | 56                      | 29                        | 9                          | 6                             | *                              |
| November 7-10, 2008         | 54                      | 31                        | 8                          | 7                             | *                              |
| October 31-November 3, 2008 | 63                      | 27                        | 6                          | 4                             | *                              |
| October 24-27, 2008         | 52                      | 35                        | 7                          | 5                             | 1                              |
| October 17-20, 2008         | 62                      | 29                        | 6                          | 3                             | *                              |
| October 10-13, 2008         | 65                      | 25                        | 7                          | 3                             | *                              |
| October 3-6, 2008           | 69                      | 23                        | 5                          | 3                             | *                              |
| September 26-29, 2008       | 70                      | 22                        | 5                          | 3                             | *                              |
| September 19-22, 2008       | 56                      | 27                        | 12                         | 5                             | *                              |
| September 5-8, 2008         | 44                      | 33                        | 16                         | 7                             | *                              |
| August 29-31, 2008          | 41                      | 34                        | 13                         | 11                            | 1                              |
| August 15-18, 2008          | 39                      | 36                        | 15                         | 10                            | *                              |
| August 8-11, 2008           | 39                      | 35                        | 16                         | 10                            | *                              |
| August 1-4, 2008            | 47                      | 34                        | 11                         | 8                             | 0                              |
| July 25-28, 2008            | 46                      | 32                        | 10                         | 12                            | *                              |
| July 18-21, 2008            | 45                      | 33                        | 13                         | 9                             | *                              |
| July 11-14, 2008            | 44                      | 33                        | 12                         | 10                            | 1                              |
| June 27-30, 2008            | 49                      | 31                        | 12                         | 7                             | 1                              |
| June 13-16, 2008            | 42                      | 33                        | 14                         | 11                            | *                              |
| May 9-12, 2008              | 45                      | 31                        | 13                         | 11                            | *                              |
| May 2-5, 2008               | 43                      | 31                        | 15                         | 10                            | 1                              |
| April 18-21, 2008           | 41                      | 35                        | 13                         | 10                            | 1                              |
| April 4-7, 2008             | 39                      | 37                        | 12                         | 12                            | *                              |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                           | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 28-31, 2008         | 42                      | 36                        | 14                         | 8                             | *                        |
| March 20-24, 2008         | 45                      | 33                        | 13                         | 9                             | *                        |
| February 29-March 3, 2008 | 38                      | 35                        | 15                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| February 15-18, 2008      | 37                      | 36                        | 11                         | 16                            | 8                        |
| February 1-4, 2008        | 40                      | 37                        | 14                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| January 18-21, 2008       | 42                      | 31                        | 16                         | 11                            | *                        |
| January 11-14, 2008       | 36                      | 32                        | 15                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| November 2-5, 2007        | 27                      | 37                        | 16                         | 19                            | 1                        |
| October 19-22, 2007       | 25                      | 34                        | 20                         | 21                            | *                        |
| August 10-13, 2007        | 28                      | 36                        | 18                         | 18                            | *                        |
| Mid-November, 2006        | 31                      | 40                        | 17                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| December, 2005            | 35                      | 35                        | 18                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| Early November, 2005      | 35                      | 39                        | 17                         | 9                             | *                        |
| Mid-May, 2005             | 30                      | 39                        | 19                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| January, 2005             | 35                      | 41                        | 17                         | 7                             | *                        |
| Mid-October, 2004         | 30                      | 43                        | 16                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| Early September, 2004     | 39                      | 34                        | 15                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| Mid-January, 2004         | 37                      | 41                        | 15                         | 7                             | *                        |
| December, 2003            | 35                      | 38                        | 14                         | 11                            | 2                        |
| November, 2003            | 40                      | 34                        | 15                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| October, 2003             | 32                      | 39                        | 16                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| September, 2003           | 39                      | 30                        | 18                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| March, 2003               | 40                      | 35                        | 16                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| February, 2003            | 42                      | 33                        | 15                         | 10                            | *                        |
| December, 2002            | 38                      | 34                        | 17                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| February, 2002            | 35                      | 40                        | 15                         | 9                             | 1                        |
| January, 2002             | 30                      | 44                        | 16                         | 9                             | 1                        |
| December, 2001            | 37                      | 40                        | 13                         | 8                             | 2                        |
| Mid-November, 2001        | 41                      | 36                        | 15                         | 7                             | 1                        |
| June, 2001                | 24                      | 41                        | 18                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| May, 2001                 | 34                      | 36                        | 15                         | 15                            | 0                        |
| April, 2001               | 36                      | 34                        | 16                         | 13                            | 1                        |
| February, 2001            | 30                      | 39                        | 18                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| January, 2001             | 32                      | 38                        | 17                         | 11                            | 2                        |
| June, 1995                | 26                      | 41                        | 22                         | 11                            | *                        |
| March, 1995               | 27                      | 45                        | 19                         | 9                             | *                        |
| February, 1995            | 23                      | 41                        | 22                         | 13                            | 1                        |
| December, 1994            | 28                      | 43                        | 20                         | 9                             | *                        |
| October, 1994             | 27                      | 40                        | 20                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| June, 1994                | 25                      | 42                        | 23                         | 10                            | *                        |
| May, 1994                 | 33                      | 40                        | 16                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| January, 1994             | 34                      | 39                        | 16                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| Early January, 1994       | 36                      | 44                        | 13                         | 7                             | *                        |
| December, 1993            | 35                      | 41                        | 15                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| October, 1993             | 33                      | 38                        | 20                         | 9                             | *                        |
| September, 1993           | 37                      | 40                        | 14                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| Early September, 1993     | 39                      | 39                        | 14                         | 9                             | *                        |
| August, 1993              | 41                      | 36                        | 14                         | 9                             | *                        |
| May, 1993                 | 37                      | 38                        | 18                         | 6                             | 1                        |
| February, 1993            | 49                      | 36                        | 10                         | 5                             | *                        |
| January, 1993             | 42                      | 39                        | 12                         | 7                             | *                        |
| September, 1992           | 43                      | 37                        | 13                         | 6                             | 1                        |
| May, 1992                 | 39                      | 39                        | 15                         | 6                             | 1                        |
| March, 1992               | 47                      | 38                        | 11                         | 4                             | *                        |
| February, 1992            | 47                      | 37                        | 10                         | 6                             | *                        |
| January, 1992             | 44                      | 40                        | 11                         | 5                             | *                        |
| October, 1991             | 36                      | 38                        | 16                         | 9                             | 1                        |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|  | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| c. The Supreme Court overturning a California ban on selling violent video games to minors<br>June 30-July 3, 2011   | 13                  | 17                    | 22                     | 46                        | 1                              |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>  |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| June 23-26, 2011: <i>The Supreme Court dismissing a sex discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart</i>  | 13                  | 19                    | 24                     | 43                        | 1                              |
| March 3-6, 2011: <i>A Supreme Court ruling protecting free speech rights of protestors at military funerals</i>  | 24                  | 22                    | 17                     | 36                        | 1                              |
| January 22-25, 2010: <i>The Supreme Court overturning campaign finance limits on corporations and unions paying for ads about political candidates</i>       | 18                  | 21                    | 25                     | 34                        | 1                              |
| July 2-5, 2009: <i>The Supreme Court ruling that a group of firefighters were unfairly denied promotions because of their race</i>                           | 19                  | 25                    | 18                     | 38                        | *                              |
| June 27-30, 2008: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn a ban on handguns in Washington, D.C.</i>   | 28                  | 28                    | 21                     | 22                        | 1                              |
| June 13-16, 2008: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court ruling that foreign terror suspects held at Guantanamo Bay have the right to challenge their confinement</i>     | 21                  | 23                    | 24                     | 32                        | *                              |
| June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>A Supreme Court ruling that public schools cannot use race to decide where students attend classes</i>                              | 23                  | 23                    | 19                     | 34                        | 1                              |
| April 20-23, 2007: <i>The Supreme Court decision to uphold a ban on partial birth abortion</i>   | 21                  | 25                    | 24                     | 29                        | 1                              |
| June, 2005: <i>The Supreme Court upholding the federal government's ban on the use of medical marijuana</i>  | 19                  | 34                    | 21                     | 25                        | 1                              |
| December, 2003: <i>The Supreme Court decision upholding campaign finance reform legislation</i>  | 8                   | 17                    | 28                     | 45                        | 2                              |
| July, 2002: <i>The Supreme Court ruling allowing vouchers to be used at private and religious schools</i>  | 19                  | 24                    | 22                     | 33                        | 2                              |
| July, 2002: <i>The Supreme Court ruling that bans the death penalty for the mentally retarded</i>  | 16                  | 23                    | 25                     | 34                        | 2                              |
| July, 2000: <i>The Supreme Court ruling allowing the Boy Scouts to fire gay troop leaders</i>  | 16                  | 35                    | 20                     | 29                        | *                              |
| July, 2000: <i>The Supreme Court ruling that a Nebraska law banning late-term abortions was unconstitutional</i>   | 15                  | 23                    | 18                     | 43                        | 1                              |
| August, 1997: <i>The decision by the Supreme Court that Paula Corbin Jones can move forward with her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton</i> | 15                  | 32                    | 31                     | 21                        | *                              |
| July, 1991: <i>The Supreme Court decision allowing laws that bar federally funded agencies from discussing abortion</i>                                      | 25                  | 31                    | 24                     | 19                        | 1                              |
| July 1990: <i>The Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die</i>   | 24                  | 32                    | 24                     | 19                        | 1                              |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|   | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| July, 1990: <i>The Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the Constitution</i> | 24                  | 39                    | 25                     | 11                        | 1                              |
| July, 1989: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the burning of the U.S. flag</i>   | 51                  | 32                    | 12                     | 4                         | 1                              |
| July, 1989: <i>The Supreme Court decision on abortion</i>   | 47                  | 36                    | 14                     | 3                         | 0                              |
| d. The financial crisis and violent protests in Greece  |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| June 30-July 3, 2011  | 14                  | 22                    | 23                     | 39                        | 1                              |
| June 16-19, 2011  | 10                  | 20                    | 25                     | 45                        | *                              |
| May 7-10, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece and violent protests there</i>  | 19                  | 23                    | 26                     | 31                        | *                              |
| April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece</i>   | 6                   | 15                    | 28                     | 51                        | 1                              |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| October, 1998: <i>Financial instability around the world</i>  | 32                  | 40                    | 19                     | 9                         | *                              |
| September, 1998: <i>Economic and political instability in Russia</i>  | 18                  | 30                    | 28                     | 24                        | *                              |
| Late August, 1998: <i>Economic problems in Russia</i>   | 8                   | 22                    | 29                     | 41                        | *                              |
| January, 1998: <i>The deepening financial crisis in many Asian countries</i>  | 15                  | 25                    | 27                     | 33                        | *                              |
| March, 1995: <i>The financial and political instability in Mexico</i>   | 12                  | 28                    | 30                     | 29                        | 1                              |
| e. News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections   |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| June 30-July 3, 2011  | 21                  | 28                    | 24                     | 25                        | 2                              |
| June 23-26, 2011  | 19                  | 26                    | 24                     | 31                        | *                              |
| June 16-19, 2011  | 23                  | 29                    | 23                     | 25                        | *                              |
| June 9-12, 2011   | 18                  | 30                    | 22                     | 30                        | 1                              |
| June 2-5, 2011  | 21                  | 31                    | 22                     | 26                        | *                              |
| May 26-29, 2011   | 20                  | 27                    | 24                     | 28                        | *                              |
| May 19-22, 2011   | 15                  | 27                    | 24                     | 32                        | 1                              |
| May 12-15, 2011   | 15                  | 22                    | 26                     | 35                        | 1                              |
| May 5-8, 2011   | 16                  | 24                    | 27                     | 32                        | 1                              |
| April 21-25, 2011   | 18                  | 26                    | 23                     | 32                        | 1                              |
| April 14-17, 2011   | 20                  | 23                    | 29                     | 27                        | 1                              |
| March 24-27, 2011   | 13                  | 19                    | 26                     | 41                        | 1                              |
| March 10-13, 2011   | 15                  | 21                    | 26                     | 38                        | 0                              |
| February 10-13, 2011  | 16                  | 19                    | 24                     | 40                        | *                              |
| February 3-6, 2011  | 15                  | 20                    | 23                     | 42                        | *                              |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| <b>2008 Election</b>  |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| October 31-November 3, 2008: <i>News about the presidential election</i>  | 57                  | 29                    | 9                      | 5                         | *                              |
| October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>  | 44                  | 36                    | 11                     | 8                         | 1                              |
| October 17-20, 2008   | 61                  | 28                    | 7                      | 4                         | *                              |
| October 10-13, 2008   | 52                  | 31                    | 12                     | 5                         | *                              |
| October 3-6, 2008   | 57                  | 31                    | 8                      | 4                         | *                              |
| September 26-29, 2008   | 56                  | 29                    | 10                     | 5                         | *                              |
| September 19-22, 2008   | 47                  | 33                    | 14                     | 6                         | *                              |
| September 12-15, 2008   | 40                  | 38                    | 14                     | 7                         | 1                              |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|  | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| September 5-8, 2008  | 45                     | 39                       | 12                        | 4                            | *                |
| August 29-31, 2008   | 45                     | 32                       | 15                        | 8                            | *                |
| August 22-25, 2008   | 31                     | 36                       | 22                        | 11                           | *                |
| August 15-18, 2008   | 25                     | 41                       | 19                        | 14                           | 1                |
| August 8-11, 2008  | 27                     | 38                       | 22                        | 13                           | *                |
| August 1-4, 2008   | 30                     | 42                       | 19                        | 9                            | *                |
| July 25-28, 2008   | 30                     | 34                       | 21                        | 15                           | *                |
| July 18-21, 2008   | 30                     | 35                       | 21                        | 14                           | *                |
| July 11-14, 2008   | 28                     | 34                       | 22                        | 15                           | 1                |
| July 3-7, 2008   | 25                     | 35                       | 23                        | 17                           | *                |
| June 27-30, 2008   | 39                     | 33                       | 18                        | 10                           | *                |
| June 20-23, 2008   | 28                     | 38                       | 22                        | 12                           | *                |
| June 13-16, 2008   | 35                     | 35                       | 20                        | 10                           | *                |
| June 6-9, 2008   | 38                     | 35                       | 17                        | 10                           | *                |
| May 30-June 2, 2008  | 30                     | 35                       | 21                        | 14                           | *                |
| May 22-25, 2008  | 32                     | 37                       | 20                        | 11                           | *                |
| May 16-19, 2008  | 33                     | 37                       | 19                        | 10                           | 1                |
| May 9-12, 2008   | 35                     | 36                       | 18                        | 11                           | *                |
| May 2-5, 2008  | 27                     | 35                       | 23                        | 14                           | 1                |
| April 25-28, 2008  | 34                     | 37                       | 18                        | 11                           | *                |
| April 18-21, 2008  | 29                     | 41                       | 19                        | 10                           | 1                |
| April 11-14, 2008  | 31                     | 37                       | 22                        | 10                           | *                |
| April 4-7, 2008  | 33                     | 36                       | 17                        | 14                           | *                |
| March 28-31, 2008  | 31                     | 41                       | 18                        | 10                           | *                |
| March 20-24, 2008  | 34                     | 37                       | 18                        | 11                           | *                |
| March 14-17, 2008  | 40                     | 37                       | 16                        | 7                            | *                |
| March 7-10, 2008   | 39                     | 36                       | 15                        | 9                            | 1                |
| February 29-March 3, 2008  | 43                     | 34                       | 14                        | 9                            | *                |
| February 22-25, 2008   | 42                     | 37                       | 13                        | 8                            | *                |
| February 15-18, 2008   | 44                     | 36                       | 10                        | 10                           | *                |
| February 8-11, 2008  | 39                     | 37                       | 15                        | 9                            | 0                |
| February 1-4, 2008   | 37                     | 35                       | 16                        | 12                           | *                |
| January 25-28, 2008  | 36                     | 37                       | 14                        | 12                           | 1                |
| January 18-21, 2008  | 36                     | 34                       | 18                        | 12                           | *                |
| January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign</i> |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
|  | 32                     | 31                       | 19                        | 17                           | 1                |
| January 4-7, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>               |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
|  | 33                     | 36                       | 19                        | 11                           | 1                |
| December 14-17, 2007   | 25                     | 34                       | 22                        | 19                           | *                |
| December 7-10, 2007  | 24                     | 35                       | 22                        | 19                           | *                |
| November 30 - December 3, 2007   | 23                     | 35                       | 23                        | 19                           | *                |
| November 23-26, 2007   | 20                     | 33                       | 26                        | 20                           | 1                |
| November 16-19, 2007   | 26                     | 33                       | 21                        | 19                           | 1                |
| November 9-12, 2007  | 21                     | 33                       | 25                        | 21                           | *                |
| November 2-5, 2007   | 27                     | 30                       | 21                        | 21                           | 1                |
| October 26-29, 2007  | 21                     | 34                       | 26                        | 19                           | *                |
| October 19-22, 2007  | 23                     | 32                       | 22                        | 23                           | *                |
| October 12-15, 2007  | 13                     | 31                       | 26                        | 30                           | *                |
| October 5-8, 2007  | 22                     | 30                       | 24                        | 24                           | *                |
| September 28 - October 1, 2007   | 21                     | 34                       | 25                        | 20                           | *                |
| September 21-24, 2007  | 24                     | 31                       | 22                        | 23                           | *                |
| September 14-17, 2007  | 22                     | 31                       | 24                        | 23                           | *                |
| September 7-10, 2007   | 18                     | 34                       | 26                        | 22                           | *                |
| August 30-September 2, 2007  | 19                     | 35                       | 21                        | 25                           | *                |
| August 24-27, 2007   | 22                     | 28                       | 24                        | 26                           | *                |
| August 17-20, 2007   | 19                     | 27                       | 24                        | 30                           | *                |
| August 10-13, 2007   | 23                     | 32                       | 21                        | 24                           | *                |
| August 3-6, 2007   | 19                     | 31                       | 25                        | 25                           | *                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|  | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| July 27-30, 2007   | 19                      | 32                        | 22                         | 26                            | 1                        |
| July 20-23, 2007   | 16                      | 26                        | 30                         | 27                            | 1                        |
| July 13-16, 2007   | 17                      | 29                        | 27                         | 27                            | *                        |
| July 6-9, 2007   | 24                      | 29                        | 24                         | 22                            | 1                        |
| June 29-July 2, 2007   | 20                      | 32                        | 25                         | 23                            | *                        |
| June 22-25, 2007   | 18                      | 31                        | 21                         | 30                            | *                        |
| June 15-18, 2007   | 17                      | 32                        | 26                         | 25                            | *                        |
| June 8-11, 2007  | 19                      | 30                        | 24                         | 26                            | 1                        |
| June 1-4, 2007   | 16                      | 27                        | 32                         | 24                            | 1                        |
| May 24-27, 2007  | 22                      | 33                        | 23                         | 22                            | *                        |
| May 18-21, 2007  | 18                      | 31                        | 24                         | 27                            | *                        |
| May 11-14, 2007  | 18                      | 30                        | 23                         | 28                            | 1                        |
| May 4-7, 2007  | 23                      | 34                        | 21                         | 21                            | 1                        |
| April 27-30, 2007  | 14                      | 30                        | 29                         | 26                            | 1                        |
| April 20-23, 2007  | 18                      | 28                        | 27                         | 27                            | *                        |
| April 12-16, 2007  | 18                      | 28                        | 27                         | 27                            | *                        |
| April 5-9, 2007  | 25                      | 30                        | 26                         | 19                            | *                        |
| March 30-April 2, 2007   | 20                      | 29                        | 27                         | 23                            | 1                        |
| March 23-26, 2007  | 20                      | 32                        | 22                         | 26                            | *                        |
| March 16-19, 2007  | 15                      | 28                        | 29                         | 27                            | 1                        |
| March 9-12, 2007   | 24                      | 30                        | 23                         | 23                            | *                        |
| March 2-5, 2007  | 19                      | 31                        | 26                         | 23                            | 1                        |
| February 23-26, 2007   | 22                      | 33                        | 24                         | 21                            | *                        |
| February 16-19, 2007   | 18                      | 32                        | 22                         | 27                            | 1                        |
| February 9-12, 2007  | 24                      | 30                        | 24                         | 21                            | 1                        |
| February 2-5, 2007   | 24                      | 36                        | 22                         | 18                            | *                        |
| January 26-29, 2007  | 24                      | 33                        | 23                         | 20                            | *                        |
| January 19-22, 2007: <i>Recent<br/>announcements by prominent Democrats<br/>about plans to run for president in 2008</i> | 24                      | 27                        | 22                         | 26                            | 1                        |
| <b>2004 Election</b>   |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| November, 2004: <i>News about the<br/>presidential election</i>  | 47                      | 35                        | 10                         | 7                             | 1                        |
| Mid-October, 2004: <i>News about candidates<br/>for the 2004 presidential election</i>                                   | 46                      | 30                        | 12                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| September, 2004  | 40                      | 34                        | 14                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| August, 2004   | 32                      | 38                        | 16                         | 14                            | *                        |
| July, 2004   | 29                      | 37                        | 18                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| June, 2004   | 28                      | 34                        | 19                         | 18                            | 1                        |
| April, 2004  | 31                      | 33                        | 19                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| Mid-March, 2004  | 35                      | 34                        | 18                         | 13                            | *                        |
| Late February, 2004 <b>(GAP)</b>   | 24                      | 40                        | 23                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| Early February, 2004: <i>The race for the<br/>Democratic presidential nomination</i>                                     | 29                      | 37                        | 20                         | 13                            | 1                        |
| Mid-January, 2004  | 16                      | 30                        | 27                         | 26                            | 1                        |
| Early January, 2004  | 14                      | 32                        | 30                         | 23                            | 1                        |
| December, 2003   | 16                      | 26                        | 27                         | 30                            | 1                        |
| November, 2003   | 11                      | 26                        | 34                         | 28                            | 1                        |
| October, 2003  | 12                      | 27                        | 28                         | 32                            | 1                        |
| September, 2003  | 17                      | 25                        | 30                         | 27                            | 1                        |
| Mid-August, 2003   | 12                      | 27                        | 27                         | 33                            | 1                        |
| May, 2003  | 8                       | 19                        | 31                         | 41                            | 1                        |
| January, 2003: <i>Recent announcements by<br/>prominent Democrats about plans to run<br/>for president in 2004</i>       | 14                      | 28                        | 29                         | 28                            | 1                        |
| <b>2000 Election</b>   |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| Early November, 2000: <i>News about the<br/>presidential election</i>  | 33                      | 41                        | 15                         | 10                            | 1                        |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|  | Very<br>closely | Fairly<br>closely | Not too<br>closely | Not at all<br>closely | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mid-October, 2000: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>                    | 36              | 35                | 17                 | 11                    | 1                |
| Early October, 2000  | 35              | 35                | 19                 | 10                    | 1                |
| September, 2000  | 22              | 42                | 21                 | 15                    | 1                |
| July, 2000: <i>News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election</i>                | 21              | 38                | 20                 | 20                    | 1                |
| June, 2000   | 23              | 32                | 23                 | 21                    | 1                |
| May, 2000  | 18              | 33                | 26                 | 23                    | *                |
| April, 2000  | 18              | 39                | 22                 | 20                    | 1                |
| Early April, 2000  |                 |                   |                    |                       |                  |
| March, 2000  | 26              | 41                | 19                 | 13                    | 1                |
| February, 2000   | 26              | 36                | 21                 | 17                    | *                |
| January, 2000  | 19              | 34                | 28                 | 18                    | 1                |
| December, 1999   | 16              | 36                | 24                 | 23                    | 1                |
| October, 1999  | 17              | 32                | 28                 | 22                    | 1                |
| September, 1999  | 15              | 31                | 33                 | 20                    | 1                |
| July, 1999   | 15              | 38                | 24                 | 22                    | 1                |
| June, 1999   | 11              | 25                | 29                 | 34                    | 1                |
| <b>1996 Election</b>   |                 |                   |                    |                       |                  |
| November, 1996: <i>News about the presidential election</i>                                | 28              | 42                | 19                 | 10                    | *                |
| October, 1996: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>                        | 31              | 39                | 18                 | 12                    | *                |
| Early September, 1996  | 24              | 36                | 23                 | 17                    | *                |
| July, 1996   | 22              | 40                | 23                 | 14                    | 1                |
| April, 1996  | 23              | 35                | 25                 | 17                    | *                |
| March, 1996: <i>News about the Republican presidential candidates</i>                      | 26              | 41                | 20                 | 13                    | *                |
| January, 1996  | 10              | 34                | 31                 | 24                    | 1                |
| October, 1995  | 12              | 36                | 30                 | 22                    | *                |
| August, 1995   | 13              | 34                | 28                 | 25                    | *                |
| June, 1995   | 11              | 31                | 31                 | 26                    | 1                |
| <b>1992 Election</b>   |                 |                   |                    |                       |                  |
| October, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election (RVs)</i>                           | 55              | 36                | 8                  | 2                     | 0                |
| September, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>                      | 42              | 37                | 13                 | 8                     | *                |
| August, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election (RVs)</i>                            | 36              | 51                | 11                 | 2                     | 0                |
| July, 1992: <i>News about the presidential campaign</i>                                    | 20              | 45                | 26                 | 9                     | *                |
| May, 1992: <i>The presidential election campaign</i>                                       | 32              | 44                | 16                 | 8                     | *                |
| March, 1992: <i>The race for the Democratic presidential nomination</i>                    | 35              | 40                | 16                 | 9                     | *                |
| March, 1992: <i>The race for the Republican presidential nomination</i>                    | 25              | 40                | 22                 | 13                    | 1                |
| February 1992: <i>The Democratic primary in New Hampshire</i>                              | 19              | 31                | 26                 | 24                    | *                |
| February, 1992: <i>The Republican primary in New Hampshire</i>                             | 19              | 31                | 26                 | 23                    | 1                |
| January, 1992: <i>News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination</i> | 11              | 25                | 36                 | 27                    | 1                |
| December, 1991   | 10              | 28                | 32                 | 30                    | *                |
| October, 1991  | 12              | 26                | 31                 | 29                    | 2                |
| <b>1988 Election</b>   |                 |                   |                    |                       |                  |
| October, 1988: <i>News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (RVs)</i>                   | 43              | 44                | 11                 | 2                     | *                |
| August, 1988 (RVs)   | 39              | 45                | 13                 | 3                     | *                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|   | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| May, 1988 (RVs)   | 22                  | 46                    | 23                     | 6                         | 3                              |
| November, 1987: <i>News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination</i>                       | 15                  | 28                    | 35                     | 21                        | 1                              |
| November, 1987: <i>News about the Republican candidates for the presidential nomination</i>                       | 13                  | 28                    | 36                     | 22                        | 1                              |
| September, 1987: <i>Coverage of the Democratic and Republican candidates for the presidential nomination</i>      | 14                  | 34                    | 37                     | 14                        | 1                              |
| f. Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt                    |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| June 30-July 3, 2011  | 29                  | 30                    | 15                     | 25                        | 2                              |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                     |                       |                        |                           |                                |
| June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i>                        | 24                  | 26                    | 22                     | 28                        | *                              |
| June 2-5, 2011  | 23                  | 24                    | 22                     | 31                        | *                              |
| May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>                 | 25                  | 26                    | 20                     | 29                        | *                              |
| May 12-15, 2011   | 21                  | 26                    | 24                     | 28                        | 1                              |
| May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i> | 29                  | 28                    | 22                     | 20                        | 1                              |
| April 21-25, 2011   | 30                  | 31                    | 18                     | 21                        | *                              |
| April 14-17, 2011   | 36                  | 27                    | 18                     | 19                        | 1                              |
| April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>        | 47                  | 26                    | 15                     | 12                        | *                              |
| March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>          | 30                  | 27                    | 21                     | 22                        | *                              |
| March 17-20, 2011   | 24                  | 25                    | 24                     | 26                        | 1                              |
| March 3-6, 2011   | 26                  | 29                    | 19                     | 26                        | 1                              |
| February 17-20, 2011  | 27                  | 30                    | 17                     | 25                        | 1                              |
| December 2-5, 2010  | 35                  | 25                    | 21                     | 17                        | 2                              |
| November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>                   | 15                  | 21                    | 21                     | 41                        | 1                              |
| January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>                          | 35                  | 30                    | 19                     | 16                        | *                              |
| November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>               | 34                  | 33                    | 20                     | 11                        | 2                              |
| October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>       | 34                  | 37                    | 17                     | 12                        | *                              |

**ASK ALL:**

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

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|    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy<br>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and<br>national debt |
| 13 | The current situation and events in Afghanistan   |
| 10 | News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections  |
| 9  | The financial crisis and violent protests in Greece   |
| 4  | The Supreme Court overturning a California ban on selling violent video games to minors   |
| 3  | Some other story <b>(VOL.)</b>  |
| 18 | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>  |
| 20 |   |

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

|  | <u>Too much coverage</u> | <u>Too little coverage</u> | <u>Right amount of coverage</u> | <u><b>(VOL.)</b><br/>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. The current situation and events in Afghanistan<br>June 30-July 3, 2011   | 12                       | 35                         | 42                              | 10                              |
| <b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                          |                            |                                 |                                 |
| June 9-12, 2011: <i>U.S. plans and policies for Afghanistan</i>  | 11                       | 42                         | 38                              | 9                               |
| July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>The release of several thousand classified documents about Afghanistan by the WikiLeaks website</i> | 15                       | 41                         | 32                              | 12                              |
| July 8-11, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>  | 6                        | 47                         | 40                              | 7                               |
| October 16-19, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>  | 11                       | 39                         | 46                              | 4                               |
| March 20-23, 2009  | 7                        | 54                         | 36                              | 3                               |
| June 20-23, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>   | 7                        | 55                         | 34                              | 4                               |
| b. Possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections<br>June 30-July 3, 2011   | 29                       | 16                         | 41                              | 14                              |
| April 21-25, 2011  | 22                       | 31                         | 39                              | 8                               |
| February 10-13, 2011   | 20                       | 29                         | 40                              | 12                              |
| <b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                          |                            |                                 |                                 |
| June 20-23, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>  | 44                       | 10                         | 44                              | 2                               |
| April 25-28, 2008  | 51                       | 7                          | 38                              | 4                               |
| January 25-28, 2008  | 36                       | 9                          | 52                              | 3                               |
| January 18-21, 2008  | 33                       | 11                         | 51                              | 5                               |
| January 11-14, 2008 <sup>1</sup>   | 40                       | 11                         | 44                              | 5                               |
| January 4-7, 2008  | 40                       | 11                         | 43                              | 6                               |
| December 14-17, 2007   | 32                       | 16                         | 48                              | 4                               |
| November 16-19, 2007   | 32                       | 13                         | 51                              | 4                               |
| July 20-23, 2007   | 32                       | 18                         | 43                              | 7                               |
| June 1-4, 2007   | 33                       | 12                         | 47                              | 8                               |

<sup>1</sup> From January 4-7, 2008 through January 11-14, 2008 the question was asked as a standalone item and was worded: "Thinking about the presidential campaign... Do you think news organizations are giving too much, too little or the right amount of coverage to the campaign?"

**PEW.3 CONTINUED...**

|   | <u>Too much<br/>coverage</u> | <u>Too little<br/>coverage</u> | Right<br>amount of<br><u>coverage</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| c. The federal budget deficit and the national debt |                              |                                |                                       |                                |
| June 30-July 3, 2011                                | 11                           | 34                             | 44                                    | 11                             |
| April 21-25, 2011                                   | 8                            | 41                             | 44                                    | 6                              |
| <b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>                        |                              |                                |                                       |                                |
| April 2-7, 2003: <i>The federal budget deficit</i>  | 11                           | 42                             | 40                                    | 7                              |