

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
May 25-30, 2011
N=1509

QUESTIONS 1 AND 15 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 2-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 4-14

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.16 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>		Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u>	Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	Aug 25- Sep 6 <u>2010</u>	Jun 3-6 <u>2010</u>	Mar 10-14 <u>2010</u>
38	The job situation	34	44	47	49	41	45
28	The federal budget deficit	24	19	19	19	23	22
20	Rising prices	28	23	15	15	16	17
10	Problems in the financial and housing markets	10	10	14	12	13	11
2	Other (VOL.)	3	1	1	2	3	2
*	None/Not worried about any (VOL.)	*	1	1	1	1	*
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3	3	2	2	2

ASK ALL:

Q.17 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u> <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Dealing with the economy					
May 25-30, 2011	38	40	5	8	8
Sep 16-19, 2010	38	37	8	10	8
May 20-23, 2010	33	34	9	14	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	41	7	6	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	32	42	6	12	9
February, 2008	34	53	2	5	6
October, 2006	32	45	4	5	14
September, 2006	32	46	5	5	12
February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8
Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6
July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10
Late October, 2002 <i>(RVs)</i>	37	40	5	6	12
Early October, 2002 <i>(RVs)</i>	37	41	4	5	13
Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13
January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18
May, 2001 ¹	33	44	8	5	10
June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9
March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9
Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10
March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5
October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1992 <i>(RVs)</i>	36	45	10	--	9
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28

QUESTION 17b PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

¹ In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"

Q.17 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Reducing the federal budget deficit					
May 25-30, 2011	41	38	4	9	8
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7
May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
Early October, 2005 ²	29	47	6	10	8
June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15
d. Dealing with immigration					
May 25-30, 2011	39	37	4	9	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	9	12	16
May 20-23, 2010	35	27	10	14	14
Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12
Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11

QUESTIONS 18-20 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 21-25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 22-23, 26-28, 32, 34-35
QUESTIONS 29-33 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.36 Which of these statements do you think best describes the federal budget deficit **[READ IN ORDER; REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]**

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>		Apr 21-25 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>
74	It is a major problem that the country must address now	81	70
22	It is a major problem that should be addressed		
3	when the economy is better	14	23
3	It is not much of a problem for the country	1	1
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	5

² In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

ASK ALL:

Q.37 Thinking about ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt, please tell me if you would approve or disapprove of each of the following. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt?]**³

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:				
a.F1	Reduce federal funding for programs that help lower income Americans May 25-30, 2011	40	54	6
b.F1	Gradually raise the age at which people can begin receiving Social Security benefits May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	36 38	59 58	5 4
c.F1	Make more of high-earners' income subject to the Social Security payroll tax May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	67 64	26 27	7 9
d.F1	Limit tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages May 25-30, 2011	49	43	8
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>Eliminate tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages</i> Dec 1-5, 2010	34	56	10
NO ITEM e.				
f.F1	Reduce agriculture subsidies May 25-30, 2011	44	44	12
g.F1	Reduce military commitments overseas May 25-30, 2011	65	30	6
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:				
h.F2	Reduce federal funding to states for things like education and roads May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	23 25	73 71	4 4
NO ITEM i.				
j.F2	Tax the health insurance people receive from their employer May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	22 21	73 72	4 7
k.F2	Reduce Social Security benefits for seniors with higher incomes May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	42 48	54 47	5 5
l.F2	Raise the income tax rate on incomes over \$250,000 a year May 25-30, 2011	66	31	3

³ In December 2010, question began, "Thinking about ways to reduce the federal budget deficit...".

Q.37 CONTINUED...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
m.F2	Limit tax deductions for large corporations May 25-30, 2011	62	34	4
n.F2	Reduce U.S. assistance to foreign countries May 25-30, 2011	72	22	5

ASK ALL:

Q.38 How much confidence do you have in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** to do the right thing when it comes to dealing with the federal budget deficit – a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>A great deal</u>	<u>A fair amount</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>No confidence at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Barack Obama					
	May 25-30, 2011	22	33	22	21	2
	Dec 1-5, 2010	19	34	20	24	4
b.	Republican leaders in Congress					
	May 25-30, 2011	7	40	31	20	2
	Dec 1-5, 2010	6	34	29	27	4
c.	Democratic leaders in Congress					
	May 25-30, 2011	12	39	28	18	3
	Dec 1-5, 2010	9	33	28	24	5

ASK ALL:

Q.39 How much, if at all, do you think each of the following has contributed to the size of the current national debt? First, has **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** contributed a great deal, a fair amount, not much, or not at all to the size of the current national debt? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: How much has [ITEM] contributed to the size of the current national debt: a great deal, a fair amount, not much or not at all?]**

		<u>Great deal</u>	<u>Fair amount</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The condition of the national economy May 25-30, 2011	42	34	14	5	5
b.	The tax cuts enacted over the past 10 years May 25-30, 2011	19	35	28	10	8
c.	The cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan May 25-30, 2011	60	26	8	3	2
d.	Increased spending on domestic programs May 25-30, 2011	24	38	24	7	8

NO QUESTIONS 40-44, 47-48
QUESTIONS 45-46 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
QUESTION 49 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

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

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Yearly Totals								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁴	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

⁴ In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."