

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
2009 MID-APRIL VALUES SURVEY B
FINAL TOPLINE
 April 14-21, 2009
 N=1,507

ASK ALL SURVEY B:

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mid-April, 2009	63	26	11=100
Early April, 2009	61	26	13=100
March, 2009	59	26	15=100
February, 2009	64	17	19=100

SELECTED APRIL TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
GW Bush: April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Clinton: April, 1993 (<i>Gallup</i>)	55	37	8=100
GHW Bush: April, 1989 (<i>Gallup</i>)	58	16	26=100
Reagan: April, 1981 (<i>Gallup</i>)	67	19	14=100
Carter: April, 1977 (<i>Gallup</i>)	63	18	19=100

ASK SURVEY B IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (1,2 IN Q.1) [N=1,338]:

Q.B2 Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

BASED ON TOTAL FOR SURVEY B:

		----- <i>Gallup</i> -----		
		Bush	Clinton	Reagan
		<u>April 2001</u>	<u>April 1993¹</u>	<u>March 1981</u>
63	Approve	56	55	60
45	Very strongly	34	18	35
13	Not so strongly	20	37	25
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	--	--
26	Disapprove	27	37	24
18	Very strongly	9	16	-
8	Not so strongly	18	21	15
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	--	--
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>
100		100	100	100

¹ In 1993, the question was worded "Do you approve/disapprove strongly or moderately?"

ASK SURVEY B FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:

Q.B3F1 What ONE WORD best describes your impression of Barack Obama? Just the one word that best describes him. [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

NOTE: The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

<u>Mid-April 2009</u>	<u>February 2009</u>	--Based on RVs-- <u>September 2008</u>
30 Intelligent	33 Intelligent/Intellectual	55 Inexperienced
29 Good	17 Change	36 Change
20 Socialist	16 Honest	20 Intelligent/Intellectual
17 Liberal	15 Confident	20 Young/Youthful
16 Great	15 Inexperienced	15 Charismatic
15 Confident	14 Hope/Hopeful	14 New
13 Inexperienced	13 Smart	12 Energetic/Energy
12 Honest	13 Socialist	12 Hope/Hopeful
12 Trying	12 Good	12 Liberal
11 Smart	11 Charismatic	10 Honest
10 Change	10 Great	9 Fresh
10 Competent	9 Fantastic	9 Scary
10 Excellent	9 Leader	8 Different
10 Spender/Spending	9 Trying	7 Enthusiastic
9 Arrogant	8 Determined	7 Unqualified
9 Hope/Hopeful	8 Different	6 Committed
8 Charismatic	8 Liberal	6 Good
8 President/Presidential	8 President	6 Innovative
7 Different	8 Sincere	6 Inspiring/Inspiration
7 Leader	7 Arrogant	6 Liar
5 Caring/Cares	7 Awesome	6 Socialist
5 Determined	7 Competent	5 Dishonest
5 Efficient	7 Energetic	5 Fake
5 Strong	6 Dedicated	5 Leader
5 Young	6 Excellent	5 Phony
4 Ambitious	6 Fresh/Refreshing	5 Unknown
4 Awesome	6 Naive	4 Arrogant
4 Capable	5 Committed	4 Idealist
4 Impressed	5 New	4 Interesting
4 Incompetent	5 Outstanding	4 Opportunist
4 Integrity	5 Young	4 Uncertain
4 Naive	4 Amazing	(N=629)
4 Politician	4 Capable	
	4 Dynamic	
	4 Enthusiastic	
	4 Fair	
	4 Integrity	
	4 OK	
	4 Good speaker	
	4 Strong	
	4 Surprising	
	(N=660)	

ASK SURVEY B FORM 2 ONLY [N=765]:

Q.B4F2 What ONE WORD best describes your impression of Michelle Obama? Just the one word that best describes her. [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

NOTE: The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

<u>Mid-April, 2009</u>	<u>July 2001</u>	<u>March 1996</u>
Michelle Obama’s “Top 20”	Laura Bush’s “Top 20”	Hillary Clinton’s “Top 20”
Classy 34	Nice/Nice lady 72	Intelligent 34
Nice/Nice lady 34	Lady/Ladylike 68	Smart 26
Intelligent 26	Classy/Has class 48	“Rhymes with rich” 22
Strong 22	Intelligent 43	Good 21
Elegant/Elegance 15	Quiet 31	Bossy 21
Good 15	Good/Good person 29	Aggressive 20
Confident 13	Conservative 28	Domineering 18
OK 11	Loyal/loyalty 24	OK 17
Smart 11	Mother/Motherly 24	Strong 16
Wife 11	Dignified/Dignity 21	Nice 13
Wonderful 9	OK 20	Liar 13
Fine 9	Pleasant 17	Powerful 11
Beautiful/Beauty 8	Elegant 17	Distrustful 10
Capable 8	Invisible 16	Dishonest 9
Great 8	Unknown 16	Pushy 9
Pretty 8	Sophisticated 16	Snob 8
Supportive/Supporting 8	Competent 16	Ambitious 7
Arrogant 7	Great 16	Fair 7
Awesome 7	Honest 15	Great 7
Mother/Motherly 7	Dedicated 15	Independent 6
Outgoing 7		
Terrific 7	(N=1212)	(N=751)

ASK SURVEY B FORM A ONLY [N=762]:

Q.B5FA Overall, has Barack Obama done better than you expected as president, worse than you expected, or about as you expected?

		<u>Newsweek</u>	<u>Gallup/CNN/</u>	
	<u>GW Bush</u>	<u>GW Bush</u>	<u>USA Today</u>	
	<u>April 2001</u>	<u>Feb 2001²</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	
			<u>April 1993</u>	
25	Better than expected	22	24	12
9	Worse than expected	7	7	14
61	About as expected	67	61	73
<u>5</u>	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100

² February 2001 question was worded slightly different: "From what you've seen or heard in the news about President Bush's first three months in office, is he doing a better job or worse job than you expected — or is his performance about what you expected?"

ASK SURVEY B FORM B ONLY [N=745]:

Q.B6FB So far, does Barack Obama seem to be a stronger leader than you expected, a weaker leader, or is he about as strong as you expected?

		<u>GW Bush</u> <u>April 2001</u>	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i> Clinton <u>Jan 1993</u>
25	Stronger leader than expected	21	13
11	Weaker leader than expected	13	12
59	About as strong as expected	59	68
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

NO QUESTION B7

ASK ALL SURVEY B:

Q.B8 Do you think that [READ AND RANDOMIZE]:

		<u>Feb 2009</u>
63	Barack Obama has a new approach to politics in Washington [OR]	66
27	Barack Obama's approach to politics in Washington is 'business as usual'?	25
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	<u>9</u>
100		100

ASK SURVEY B FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.B9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>Don't</u> <u>know</u>
a.FI	The economy			
	Mid-April, 2009	60	33	7=100
	February, 2009	56	24	20=100
b.FI	The threat of terrorism			
	Mid-April, 2009	57	26	17=100
	February 2009	50	21	29=100
c.FI	The nation's foreign policy			
	Mid-April, 2009	61	22	17=100
	February 2009	52	17	31=100
d.F1	The federal budget deficit			
	Mid-April, 2009	50	38	12=100
e.F1	Tax policy			
	Mid-April, 2009	50	33	17=100
f.F1	Health care policy			
	Mid-April, 2009	51	26	23=100

NO QUESTIONS B10-B11

ASK SURVEY B FORM 2 ONLY [N=765]:

Q.B12F2 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies and proposals made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

		March <u>2009</u>
26	Better	14
17	Worse	15
47	No effect so far	64
6	Too soon/early to tell (VOL.)	4
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>
100		100

ASK SURVEY B FORM 2 ONLY [N=765]:

Q.B13F2 So far, do you think Barack Obama is [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

		March <u>2009</u>
34	Trying to address too many issues at once	35
4	Focusing on too few issues [OR]	4
56	Doing about right	56
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	<u>5</u>
100		100

ASK ALL SURVEY B:

Q.B14 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		March <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2009</u>
40	Liberal members of his party [OR]	44	34
33	Moderate members of his party	30	44
<u>27</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>
100		100	100

ASK SURVEY B FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:

Q.B15F1 When it comes to foreign policy, do you think Barack Obama pushes American interests too hard, not hard enough, or about right?

		GW Bush Jan <u>2005</u>	GW Bush Mid-Jan <u>2004</u>	Clinton June <u>1995</u>
5	Too hard	27	26	12
31	Not hard enough [OR]	23	22	42
58	About right	43	47	39
<u>6</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK SURVEY B FORM 2 ONLY [N=765]:

Q.B16F2 When it comes to foreign policy, do you think Barack Obama is taking into account the interests and views of our allies too much, too little, or about the right amount?

		-----GW Bush -----			
		Jan	July	Mid-Jan	Early Sept
		<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>
19	Too much	16	15	18	19
12	Too little	34	37	30	22
57	Right amount	44	38	46	42
<u>12</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK SURVEY B FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:

Thinking about a couple of specific decisions Obama has made ...

Q.B17F1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's decision to close the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay within a year?

		Feb
		<u>2009</u>
51	Approve	46
38	Disapprove	39
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>15</u>
100		100

ASK SURVEY B FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:

Q.B18F1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's decision to permit federal funding for most embryonic stem cell research?

63	Approve
27	Disapprove
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

QUESTIONS B19-B20 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTION B21

ASK ALL SURVEY B:

Q.B22 Now I'd like your views on some people. As I read some names, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person. (First, **INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE**) would you say your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

How about **(NEXT NAME)**? **[IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [NAME] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>rate/Ref</u>
a.	Barack Obama								
	Mid-April, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3=100
	January, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6=100
	Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6=100
	Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5=100
	Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4=100
	Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9=100
	April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6=100
	March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9=100
	Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8=100
	Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10=100
	January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8=100
	Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11=100
	August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13=100
b.	Joe Biden								
	Mid-April, 2009	51	14	37	28	10	18	8	13=100
	January, 2009	63	22	41	20	7	13	6	11=100
	Mid-October, 2008	55	20	34	35	10	19	6	10=100
	Early Oct., 2008 (<i>callback</i>)	61	20	41	30	10	20	1	8=100
	Late September, 2008	49	15	34	30	10	20	8	13=100
	Mid-September, 2008	48	14	34	30	11	19	8	14=100
	April, 2006	28	7	21	20	5	15	38	14=100
	Late October, 2005	21	4	17	20	6	14	43	16=100
	September, 1987	22	4	18	15	4	11	25	38=100
c.	Michelle Obama								
	Mid-April, 2009	76	36	40	13	4	9	1	10=100
	January, 2009	68	28	40	15	4	11	2	15=100
	September, 2008	56	23	33	25	11	14	2	17=100
	Late May, 2008	43	14	29	21	8	13	4	32=100

Q.B22 CONTINUED...

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	heard of	rate/Ref
d.	George W. Bush								
	Mid-April, 2009	35	9	26	60	33	27	*	5=100
	January, 2009	37	9	28	60	35	25	0	3=100
	April, 2008	31	9	22	65	42	23	*	4=100
	March, 2008	34	8	26	61	37	24	0	5=100
	Late February, 2008	35	10	25	60	39	21	0	5=100
	Early February, 2008	34	9	25	61	39	22	*	5=100
	January, 2008	36	11	25	60	37	23	0	4=100
	Late December, 2007	33	10	23	63	41	22	0	4=100
	August, 2007	40	12	28	57	34	23	*	3=100
	December, 2006	39	12	27	57	34	23	*	4=100
	April, 2006	40	15	25	57	35	22	*	3=100
	Late October, 2005	46	17	29	51	29	22	*	3=100
	July, 2005	51	22	29	46	25	21	0	3=100
	Late March, 2005	53	23	30	45	27	18	0	2=100
	Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	56	26	30	42	23	19	*	2=100
	Early October, 2004 (RVs)	57	27	30	40	20	20	0	3=100
	September, 2004	52	25	27	43	24	19	*	5=100
	August, 2004	58	27	31	39	22	17	0	3=100
	June, 2004	52	19	33	45	22	23	*	3=100
	Early February, 2004	53	21	32	44	25	19	0	3=100
	Gallup: January 29-February 1, 2004	52	--	--	47	--	--	--	1=100
	Gallup: January 2-5, 2004	65	--	--	35	--	--	--	*=100
	Gallup: October 6-8, 2003	60	--	--	39	--	--	--	1=100
	Gallup: June 9-10, 2003	66	--	--	33	--	--	--	1=100
	April, 2003	72	37	35	25	11	14	0	3=100
	January, 2003	70	28	42	28	10	18	0	2=100
	December, 2002	68	35	33	27	11	16	0	5=100
	July, 2001	61	22	39	35	14	21	*	4=100
	January, 2001	60	24	36	33	12	21	0	7=100
	May, 2000	58	18	40	31	12	19	1	10=100
	March, 1999 ³	61	21	40	21	7	14	4	14=100
	November, 1997	54	13	41	18	6	12	9	19=100

NO QUESTIONS B23 - B24

QUESTIONS B25 - B30 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

³

In March 1999 and November 1997 the category was listed: "Texas Governor George W. Bush."

ASK ALL:

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

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

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				Preference	Party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
Mid April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3=100	13	18
Early April, 2009	21	33	40	3	*	3=100	14	19
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2=100	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2=100	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3=100	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3=100	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3=100	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3=100	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2=100	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2=100	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2=100	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3=100	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2=100	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3=100	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2=100	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4=100	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3=100	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3=100	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2=100	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1=100	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1=100	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9=100	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					