

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 1999 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
OCTOBER 7 - 11, 1999
N=1,032

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton 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 Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
October, 1999	59	34	7=100
September, 1999	56	36	8=100
July, 1999	58	31	11=100
June, 1999	55	35	10=100
May, 1999	56	34	10=100
April, 1999	56	38	6=100
March, 1999	62	31	7=100
February, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996 54	38	8=100	
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994 45	46	9=100	
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100

Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

Q.3 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE, ALWAYS ENDING WITH "g"]**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK <u>(VOL.)</u>
a. The earthquake in Taiwan	17	36	31	16	*=100
b. News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election	17	32	28	22	1=100
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1=100
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
c. Political unrest and violence in East Timor near Indonesia	7	22	29	41	1=100
e. The flooding and destruction caused by Hurricane Floyd	45	38	12	5	*=100

NO ITEM 3f

g. Proposals by presidential candidates to provide health insurance to people currently uninsured	24	33	23	20	*=100
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Q.4 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from computer online sources? **(ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)**

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION IN Q.4 ASK [N=796]:

Q.4a Do you get most of your news about national and international issues from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC? **(ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE)**

	Jan <u>1999</u> ¹	Jan <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1995</u> ²	Jan <u>1994</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1993</u>
80 Television 82	88	82	83	83	83	
22 Network TV news	--	--	--	--	--	39
31 Local TV news	--	--	--	--	--	30
35 Cable news ³	--	--	--	--	--	38
2 Other	--	--	--	--	--	2
* Don't know	--	--	--	--	--	1
48 Newspapers	42	61	63	51	60	52
19 Radio	18	25	20	15	17	17
5 Magazines	4	8	10	10	9	5
11 Online sources	6	--	--	--	--	--
2 Other (VOL.)	2	2	1	5	3	1
* Don't know/Refused	*	*	1	1	*	1

1 Beginning in January 1999, question wording included "computer online sources."

2 In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

3 "Cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC" has been substituted for "CNN," which was used previously.

ROTATE BLOCK Q.5 THROUGH Q.5b WITH BLOCK Q.6 THROUGH Q.8

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.5 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? (**PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.**) (**READ AND ROTATE**)

Q.5a And who would be your SECOND choice? (**READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED**) — **IF RESPONDENT GIVES SECOND CHOICE, SKIP Q.5b.**

Q.5b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=319]:

	<u>Oct</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>July</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>Dec</u> <u>1998</u>
George W. Bush				
First Choice/Lean Bush	63	56	60	57
Second Choice	19	21	19	17
Elizabeth Dole				
First Choice/Lean Dole	10	15	13	N/A
Second Choice	27	28	27	N/A
Steve Forbes				
First Choice/Lean Forbes	6	5	3	9
Second Choice	9	8	11	14
Patrick Buchanan				
First Choice/Lean Buchanan	3	3	4	5
Second Choice	12	8	6	11
John McCain				
First Choice/Lean McCain	10	6	4	4
Second Choice	12	6	8	6
Gary Bauer				
First Choice/Lean Bauer	3	1	2	1
Second Choice	2	1	2	3
Orrin Hatch				
First Choice/Lean Hatch	2	3	1	N/A
Second Choice	1	2	4	N/A
Alan Keyes				
First Choice/Lean Keyes	1	2	N/A	N/A
Second Choice	3	2	N/A	N/A
None of them (VOL.)				
First Choice	3	3	1	5
Second Choice	5	4	5	15
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)				
First Choice	3	4	2	5
Second Choice	4	3	2	8

ASK ALL:

Q.6 There are now two candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000, Al Gore and Bill Bradley. Please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic party's candidate for President?

Q.6a Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=355]:

	<u>Sept</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>July</u> <u>1999</u>
60 Al Gore/Lean Gore	58	65
31 Bill Bradley/Lean Bradley	32	29
5 None of them (VOL.)	5	2
4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	4
100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.7 What do you like most about (**INSERT NAME FROM Q.6 OR Q.6a**), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT WHO CHOSE GORE/BRADLEY IN Q.6/Q.6a:

	Stand on					
	<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Issues</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>	
Al Gore	6	15	28	45	6=100	(N=101)
Bill Bradley	21	16	5	53	5=100	(N=60)

Q.8 What do you like LEAST about (INSERT NAME NOT CHOSEN IN Q.6 OR Q.6a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT WHO CHOSE GORE OR BRADLEY IN Q.6/Q.6a:

	<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on Issues</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>	
Al Gore	27	29	11	23	10=100	(N=60)
Bill Bradley	17	5	19	15	44=100	(N=101)

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

IF "3, OTHER" OR "9, DON'T KNOW/REFUSED" IN Q.9, ASK:

Q.9a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=739]:

	<u>Sept 1999</u>	<u>July 1999</u>	<u>March 1999⁴</u>	<u>Jan 1999</u>	<u>Early Sept 1998</u>
44 Gore/Lean Gore	39	42	41	44	40
51 Bush/Lean Bush	54	53	54	50	53
<u>5</u> Undecided/Other/DK	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

Q.10 What do you like most about (INSERT FROM Q.9 OR Q.9a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE GORE OR BUSH IN Q. 9/Q. 9a:

	<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on issues</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Al Gore	5	12	28	47	8=100	(N=156)
George W. Bush	12	17	16	47	8=100	(N=204)
Bill Clinton						
September, 1996	14	24	6	49	7=100	
Bob Dole						
September, 1996	3	25	33	35	4=100	
Ross Perot						
September, 1996	8	17	13	54	8=100	

Q.11 What do you like LEAST about (INSERT NAME NOT CHOSEN IN Q.9 OR Q.9a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE GORE OR BUSH IN Q. 9/Q.9a:

	<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on Issues</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>	
Al Gore	26	23	8	29	14	(N=204)
George W. Bush	22	6	13	41	18	(N=156)

ASK ALL:

Q.12 Now I want to ask you a few questions about some things that have been in the news about politics and the presidential campaign. Not everyone will have heard of them. As I read a list of names or events tell me if you have heard A LOT about it, SOMETHING about it, or NEVER HEARD of it. (ROTATE ITEMS)

<u>Refused</u>	<u>Heard</u>	<u>Heard A Lot</u>	<u>Never Something</u>	<u>DK/Heard</u>
a. The proposed debates between Al Gore and Bill Bradley	10	43	47	*=100
b. Pat Buchanan possibly leaving the Republican Party for the Reform Party	22	37	41	*=100
c. Dan Quayle dropping out of the race for				

In previous months, the question asked: "Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and Texas governor George W. Bush, the Republican..."

the Republican presidential nomination	24	52	23	1=100
NO ITEM 12d				
e. Warren Beatty possibly running for president	21	47	31	1=100
f. Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura's remarks to Playboy magazine about organized religion and other topics	42	33	25	*=100
g. George W. Bush's recent criticisms of the Republican Party's policies toward poor people	14	39	47	*=100

13. Which of the following is the most important reason why you (**IF "1, GORE" IN Q.9 or Q.9a ASK: support; IF "2, BUSH; 3, OTHER, or 9, DON'T KNOW" in Q.9 or Q.9a, ASK: don't support**) Al Gore for president — his personality and leadership abilities, OR his ties to the Clinton administration?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

	Why Support	<u>Gore</u>	Why don't	<u>support Gore</u>
Personality and leadership abilities	60		38	
Ties to the Clinton administration	30		49	
(DO NOT READ) Other/Neither	7		8	
Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>		<u>5</u>	
	100		100	
	(N=311)		(N=428)	

On another subject...

- Q.14 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.14, ASK:

Q.15 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS

	Sept 1999	July 1999	June 1999	May 1999	April 1999	March 1999	Feb 1999	Jan 1999	Early Dec 1998	Nov 1998	Early Sept 1998	Early Aug 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995 ⁵
50 Goes online	53	49	50	48	51	49	49	47	42	37	42	43	36	23	14
50 Does not go online	47	51	50	52	49	51	51	53	58	63	58	57	63	77	86
0 DK/Refused	0	0	*	0	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	1	0	*
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

IF "1, YES" (GO ONLINE) IN Q.15 ASK [N=560]:

Q.16 When did you first start going online, was it within the last 6 months, a year ago, two or three years ago, or more than three years ago?

	July 1999	Nov 1998	Oct 1996
15 Within last 6 months	17	20	26
22 1 year ago		23	38
32 2-3 years ago		32	24
31 More than 3 years ago	28	19	12
0 Don't know/Refused	*	1	*
100	100	100	100

Q.17 How frequently do you go online to get NEWS...would you say every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, or less often?

	July 1999	June 1999	Early Dec 1998	Nov 1998	Early Sept 1998	April 1998	June 1995
25 Everyday	21	22	25	10	23	18	6
14 3-5 days per week	15	18	17	11	16	17	9
22 1-2 days per week	22	22	22	16	21	20	15
11 Once every few weeks	14	14	10	13	14	15	13
20 Less often	19	18	18	20	19	21	28
8 No/Never (VOL.)	9	7	8	30	7	9	29
* Don't know/Refused	0	0	*	*	*	*	*
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK Q.18 AND Q.19 ONLY OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED "1-3" IN Q.17 [N=339]:

Q.18 Would you say you get more of your news from online sources, or from traditional sources such as TV news, newspapers, and magazines?

	Nov 1998	June 1995
18 More online	16	8
78 More traditional print and broadcast	75	87
4 Equal (VOL.)	8	4
0 Don't Know/Refused	1	1
100	100	100

The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?

Q.19 Since you started getting news online, are you using other sources of news MORE often, LESS often, or about the same as you used to?

		Nov <u>1998</u>	April <u>1998</u>	June <u>1995</u>
9	Yes, more often	16	8	4
17	Yes, less often	11	11	12
6	Yes, some more, others less	10	5	8
68	No, about the same	63	76	76
*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	0
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

ASK ALL ONLINE USERS (THOSE WHO ANSWERED "1, YES" IN Q.15) [N=560]:

Q.20 When you go online do you ever encounter or come across news and information on current events, public issues or politics when you may have been going online for a purpose other than to get the news?

		Nov <u>1998</u>	April <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1996</u> ⁶
55	Yes	48	54	53
44	No	51	45	45
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

NO QUESTION 21

ASK ALL:

On another matter...

Q.22 In reporting on a presidential candidate, what ONE factor do you think news organizations should pay the most attention to...(READ)

		Feb <u>1999</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Oct <u>1991</u> ⁷	Nov <u>1987</u>
8	What a candidate is like as a person,	12	6	7	9
63	What a candidate believes about important issues, OR	49	69	46	41
27	What a candidate has accomplished in the past?	36	23	42	45
<u>2</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.23 Thinking about the presidential candidates and what you will learn about them over the next year, please rate the importance of each of the following things. How important it is for YOU to learn about **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)** — very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

		Very <u>Important</u>	Somewhat <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	DK/Refused <u>(VOL.)</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=495]:						
a.	How well a candidate connects with average people	71	23	5	1	*=100
b.	The clubs and organizations a candidate belongs to	24	40	19	16	1=100
c.	Whether a candidate is an active church member	25	32	21	22	*=100
d.	A candidate's military background	19	37	23	21	*=100
e.	A candidate's personal finances	13	25	31	30	1=100

⁶ In 1996 this question was worded, "When you go online are you ever exposed to news and information on current events, public issues or politics when you may have been going online for a purpose other than to get the news?"

⁷ For October 1991 and November 1987 trend figures based on slightly different question, "In reporting on a presidential candidate, what *one* factor do you think news organizations should pay the most attention to... a candidate's personal character, a candidate's stand on issues, OR a candidate's past experiences and qualifications."

f.	The personal qualities of a candidate's spouse	21	30	28	21	0=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=537]						
g.	A candidate's children	8	19	32	41	*=100
h.	A candidate's voting record or policy positions in public offices he or she previously held	58	31	7	3	1=100
i.	The professional background of a candidate's spouse	15	33	26	25	1=100
j.	A candidate's reputation for honesty	82	13	3	1	1=100
k.	A candidate's major campaign contributors	37	38	14	10	1=100
l.	A candidate's experiences growing up	20	37	29	14	*=100

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.24 Now, as I read from a list, tell me which ONE of the following items is the most important thing for the next President TO DO? Please wait until I read the entire list before you respond. **(INSERT ITEM: READ AND ROTATE)**

Q.24a And which should be the President's second highest priority? **(READ ITEMS AGAIN, IF NECESSARY -- SAME ORDER USED IN Q.24; OMIT RESPONSE IN Q.24)**

		First Priority	Second Priority
Keep the economy strong		16	12
Improve the nation's health care system	12	15	
Improve the educational system		15	16
Deal with the moral breakdown in the country	13	7	
Work to reduce crime		3	7
Deal with taxes	5	7	
Deal with the problems of poor and needy people	6	10	
Keep Social Security and Medicare financially sound	17	16	
Prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction		7	8
Other (DO NOT READ: SPECIFY)		2	2
None of the above (DO NOT READ)		1	0
Don't know (DO NOT READ)		<u>3</u> 100	<u>*</u> 100

(N=1000)⁸

INTRO TO Q'S 25-28: Now I'd like to ask you about some specific issues. Not everyone will have heard of them.

Q.25 The (first one/next one) is...**(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)**. How much have you heard or read about this issue — a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all? **CONTINUE WITH Q'S 26-28 BEFORE REPEATING QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM.**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS a THROUGH e) [N=495]:

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>Nothing At All</u>	<u>DK (VOL.)</u>
a. How to reduce the gap between rich and poor school districts in a fair way	18	29	27	25	1=100
b. The debate about whether U.S. troops should go into another country to stop the killing of innocent civilians in a civil war	45	37	10	8	*=100
c. How to provide health insurance to children and adults who can't afford it	43	37	14	6	0=100
d. How to make sure poorer American families get access to computers and the Internet	9	19	25	47	0=100
e. Whether the U.S. and other western nations have a greater responsibility than less developed countries to deal with global environmental damage	20	34	27	18	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS f THROUGH k) [N=537]:

f. Whether to increase premiums or raise the age of eligibility in order to keep

⁸

If respondent did not choose a first priority in Q.24, they were skipped out of this question.

	Medicare financially sound	17	31	30	22	0=100
g.	How to reduce the gap between rich people and poor people in this country	18	31	26	25	0=100
h.	How the international financial system can be changed to make the world economy more stable	11	30	32	26	1=100
i.	Whether to ban the unlimited campaign contributions that corporations and unions can now make to political parties	19	33	18	30	*=100
j.	How to make the work place better suit the needs of working parents	18	35	27	20	*=100
k.	Whether to invest a portion of Social Security funds in the stock market	23	28	17	32	0=100

Q.26 Is this issue something you've talked about with family, friends, or co-workers, or not? (**REPEAT ISSUE IF NECESSARY**)

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS a THROUGH e) [N=495]:

		<u>Yes, talked about</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a.	How to reduce the gap between rich and poor school districts in a fair way	44	56	*=100
b.	The debate about whether U.S. troops should go into another country to stop the killing of innocent civilians in a civil war	65	35	0=100
c.	How to provide health insurance to children and adults who can't afford it	62	38	0=100
d.	How to make sure poorer American families get access to computers and the Internet	23	77	0=100
e.	Whether the U.S. and other western nations have a greater responsibility than less developed countries to deal with global environmental damage	38	62	*=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS f THROUGH k) [N=537]:

f.	Whether to increase premiums or raise the age of eligibility in order to keep Medicare financially sound	44	56	*=100
g.	How to reduce the gap between rich people and poor people in this country	50	50	*=100
h.	How the international financial system can be changed to make the world economy more stable	32	67	1=100
i.	Whether to ban the unlimited campaign contributions that corporations and unions can now make to political parties	31	69	*=100
j.	How to make the work place better suit the needs of working parents	47	53	*=100
k.	Whether to invest a portion of Social Security funds in the stock market	39	61	0=100

Q.27 How important is it for you personally to hear what positions presidential candidates take on this issue — very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? (REPEAT ISSUE IF NECESSARY)

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS a THROUGH e) [N=495]:

	<u>Very Imp</u>	<u>Somewhat Imp</u>	<u>Not Imp</u>	<u>Not at all Imp</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. How to reduce the gap between rich and poor school districts in a fair way	41	39	12	7	1=100
b. The debate about whether U.S. troops should go into another country to stop the killing of innocent civilians in a civil war	56	35	6	2	1=100
c. How to provide health insurance to children and adults who can't afford it	62	29	6	2	1=100
d. How to make sure poorer American families get access to computers and the Internet	18	32	26	23	1=100
e. Whether the U.S. and other western nations have a greater responsibility than less developed countries to deal with global environmental damage	32	46	15	7	0=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS f THROUGH k) [N=537]:

f. Whether to increase premiums or raise the age of eligibility in order to keep Medicare financially sound	50	37	7	6	*=100
g. How to reduce the gap between rich people and poor people in this country	44	37	10	9	*=100
h. How the international financial system can be changed to make the world economy more stable	33	40	16	10	1=100
i. Whether to ban the unlimited campaign contributions that corporations and unions can now make to political parties	35	35	17	12	1=100
j. How to make the work place better suit the needs of working parents	34	40	15	11	*=100
k. Whether to invest a portion of Social Security funds in the stock market	46	35	10	8	1=100

Q.28 Do you think this is an issue that interests ordinary people or is it more of an issue that mostly interests experts and people in Washington? (REPEAT ISSUE IF NECESSARY)

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS a THROUGH e) [N=495]:

	<u>Ordinary People</u>	<u>Experts</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. How to reduce the gap between rich and poor school districts in a fair way	69	29	2=100
b. The debate about whether U.S. troops should go into another country to stop the killing of innocent civilians in a civil war	69	29	2=100
c. How to provide health insurance to children and adults who can't afford it	82	17	1=100
d. How to make sure poorer American families get access to computers and the Internet	46	50	4=100

e.	Whether the U.S. and other western nations have a greater responsibility than less developed countries to deal with global environmental damage	37	60	3=100
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ASK FORM 2 ONLY (ROTATE ITEMS f THROUGH k) [N=537]:

f.	Whether to increase premiums or raise the age of eligibility in order to keep Medicare financially sound	79	18	3=100
g.	How to reduce the gap between rich people and poor people in this country	72	26	2=100
h.	How the international financial system can be changed to make the world economy more stable	39	58	3=100
i.	Whether to ban the unlimited campaign contributions that corporations and unions can now make to political parties	46	51	3=100
j.	How to make the work place better suit the needs of working parents	84	14	2=100
k.	Whether to invest a portion of Social Security funds in the stock market	67	31	2=100

On another subject...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=495]:

Q.29 Which of the following is the more significant health care problem facing the country today? Is it providing health insurance coverage for those who cannot afford it, or reforming HMOs and managed care plans?

57	Providing health insurance coverage for those who cannot afford it
38	Reforming HMOs and managed care plans
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=537]:

Q.30 Which of the following health care concerns should be given a higher priority? Is it providing health insurance coverage for those who cannot afford it, or reforming HMOs and managed care plans?

58	Providing health insurance coverage for those who cannot afford it
38	Reforming HMOs and managed care plans
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

Now for a couple last questions about politics...

Q.31 Democratic presidential candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley may have a series of debates. How interested would you be in watching them debate — very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested, or not at all interested?

32	Very interested
35	Somewhat interested
15	Not too interested
17	Not at all interested
<u>1</u>	Don't know/No response
100	

Q.32 In general, would you describe your political views as... **(READ)**

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	May <u>1998</u>	June <u>1997</u>	June <u>1996</u>	April <u>1996</u>	July <u>1994</u>
7	Very conservative	8	7	7	7	7	7
26	Conservative	30	30	30	32	31	32
41	Moderate	38	37	40	38	39	39
16	Liberal, OR	15	15	14	14	14	15
6	Very liberal?	6	6	5	6	5	4
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100