

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JULY 1999 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
JULY 13-18, 1999
N=1,200

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>
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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

Now I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them....

Q.3 As you may know, the House of Representatives recently voted on a bill to require 24-hour background checks on people buying guns at gun shows. As far as you know, did this bill pass or not?

16	Yes, it did pass
32	No, it didn't pass
<u>52</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:

Q.4F1 In your opinion, over the past few years have we made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

		<u>Feb</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>Dec</u> <u>1994</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>1989</u>
59	Yes	61	29	26	15
29	No	29	59	65	77
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:

Q.5F2 In your opinion, over the past few years have we made significant progress in paying down the national debt, or not?

50 Yes
 37 No
13 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.6 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 ITEMS]**

		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 situation in Kosovo	32	42	16	10	*=100
	June, 1999 ¹	32	42	15	10	1=100
	May, 1999	32	38	19	10	1=100
	Late April, 1999	41	39	13	7	*=100
	April, 1999	41	37	16	6	0=100
	March, 1999 ²	43	32	15	9	1=100
	February, 1999 ³	11	30	28	30	1=100
	Mid-January, 1999 ⁴	9	21	24	44	2=100
	March, 1998 ⁵	5	12	26	55	2=100

[NO ITEM b]

c.	The American Medical Association's decision to form a labor union for doctors	9	19	25	46	1=100
d.	Reports about a surprisingly large federal budget surplus	13	28	25	33	1=100
e.	President Clinton's proposals to change the Medicare system	19	35	25	20	1=100
	June, 1997 ⁶	24	27	25	23	1=100
	February, 1997	20	27	23	28	2=100
	January, 1996 ⁷	30	36	22	12	*=100
	September, 1995	31	40	18	11	*=100

1 In April, May and June, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces."
 2 In March, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo."
 3 In February, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO efforts to end ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."
 4 In Mid-January, 1999, the story was listed as "The massacre of 45 people in Kosovo, Serbia."
 5 In March, 1998, the story was listed as "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."
 6 In June and February, 1997, the story was listed as "The debate in Washington about how to reform the Medicare system."
 7 In January 1996 and September 1995, the story was listed "The debate in Washington over the future of the Medicare system."

Q.6 CONTINUED ...

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK (VOL) *=100
f.	Women's World Cup soccer	18	26	21	35	
g.	News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election	15	38	24	22	1=100
	June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
h.	Reports that Hillary Clinton might run for the U.S. Senate	21	37	26	15	1=100
	June, 1999	14	32	31	22	1=100
	February, 1999	19	35	24	21	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:

N.1F1 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 2000 presidential campaign, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

		March <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Sept <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1991</u>	May <u>1988</u>	Nov <u>1987</u>
18	Too much	29	18	22	19	12	24	21
13	Too little	10	18	11	15	22	7	16
59	Right amount	58	60	62	62	58	62	58
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:

N.2F2 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to Hillary Clinton's possible Senate campaign in New York, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

40	Too Much
7	Too little
45	Right amount
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

P.1 As it's shaping up so far, what's your opinion of the likely presidential candidates for next year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the likely choices?

-- Registered Voters--

Total	RVs		Late Oct <u>1996</u> ⁸	Late Sept <u>1996</u>	June <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1992</u>	Aug <u>1992</u>	June <u>1992</u>
11	13	Very satisfied	11	11	9	10	11	6
42	40	Fairly satisfied	48	50	37	41	42	31
22	25	Not too satisfied	27	26	31	33	31	35
13	12	Not at all satisfied	11	10	19	14	15	26
<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100

(N=875)

8

In previous years the question was worded "What's your opinion of the presidential candidates this year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the choices?"

ROTATE Q.7 AND Q.8; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF NAMES:

On a different subject...

Q.7 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, would you tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? **(READ AND ROTATE)**

Q.7a And who would be your SECOND choice? **(READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED) — IF RESPONDENT GIVES SECOND CHOICE, SKIP Q.7b.**

Q.7b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=372]:

	<u>July 1999</u>	<u>Dec 1998⁹</u>
Dan Quayle		
First Choice/Lean Quayle	9	8
Second Choice	14	15
George W. Bush		
First Choice/Lean Bush	60	57
Second Choice	19	17
Elizabeth Dole		
First Choice/Lean Dole	13	N/A
Second Choice	27	N/A
Steve Forbes		
First Choice/Lean Forbes	3	9
Second Choice	11	14
Patrick Buchanan		
First Choice/Lean Buchanan	4	5
Second Choice	6	11
John McCain		
First Choice/Lean McCain	4	4
Second Choice	8	6
Gary Bauer		
First Choice/Lean Bauer	2	1
Second Choice	2	3
Lamar Alexander		
First Choice/Lean Alexander	1	2
Second Choice	2	6
Orrin Hatch		
First Choice/Lean Hatch	1	N/A
Second Choice	4	N/A
None of them (VOL.)		
First Choice	1	5
Second Choice	5	15
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		
First Choice	2	5
Second Choice	2	8

9

In December 1998, Elizabeth Dole and Orrin Hatch were not included in list of possible candidates; John Kasich was.

Q.8 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.8a Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=432]:

65	Al Gore/Lean Gore
29	Bill Bradley/Lean Bradley
2	None of them (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

(ROTATE Q.9 AND Q.10)

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, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED, ASK:

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

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:

		March <u>1999</u> ¹⁰	January <u>1999</u>	Early Sept <u>1998</u>
42	Gore/Lean Gore	41	44	40
53	Bush/Lean Bush	54	50	53
<u>5</u>	Undecided/Other	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Bradley, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

IF '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK:

Q.10a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Bradley, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:

36	Bradley/Lean Bradley
57	Bush/Lean Bush
<u>7</u>	Undecided/Other
100	

¹⁰

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. Who would you vote for?"

ASK ALL:

- Q.11 Next, I'm going to read you a list of some people who have been in the news lately. Not everyone will have heard of them. For each one that I name, please tell me whether or not you have heard of this person. (First,) **(INSERT NAME; ROTATE ITEMS)**, have you heard of this person or not? **(IF YES, ASK Q.12; IF NO, DK, SKIP TO NEXT ITEM.)**
- Q.12 How much of a chance is there that you would vote for **(INSERT NAME)** if he is a candidate for president in 2000 — is there a good chance, some chance, or no chance?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]

			-- Based on those who have heard --					
		Have	Have not	DK/	Good	Some	No	DK/
		<u>Heard</u>	<u>Heard</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Chance</u>	<u>Chance</u>	<u>Chance</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
a.	Jesse Ventura	79	20	1=100	13	19	67	1=100
b.	Lowell Weicker	24	75	1=100	5	25	66	4=100
c.	Ross Perot	96	4	*=100	11	19	70	0=100

ASK ALL:

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

- Q.13 What one issue would you most like to hear presidential candidates talk about next year? **(OPEN-ENDED; ACCEPT UP TO THREE MENTIONS)**

July		Sep	Oct	Oct
<u>1999</u>		<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1991</u>
18	Health care reform/Health care in general	14	20	8
14	Social Security	-	-	-
11	Medicare	-	-	-
9	Education/Education reform	11	6	11
9	Cutting taxes/Taxes	16	8	6
8	Balancing the budget/Budget deficit/National debt	10	14	8
7	Crime/Drugs	6	9	5
7	Gun control	-	-	-
6	Foreign Policy	4	5	-
6	The moral crisis in this country	5	8	-
4	The economy	13	14	43
2	Welfare reform	12	8	-
2	The job situation/Unemployment/Protecting US jobs	8	6	15
1	Abortion	4	-	-
1	Race relations	*	2	-
	Reforming/Cleaning up the political system/Term limits/			
1	Campaign finance reform	3	4	-
10	Other (SPECIFY)	16	10	27
13	Don't know/Refused	6	6	13
-	None	2	3	-

- Q.13a If George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, how satisfied would you be with the choices.... very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
26	26	Very satisfied
50	50	Fairly satisfied
14	15	Not too satisfied
7	7	Not at all satisfied
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607] [REGISTERED VOTERS N=455]

Q.13b

F1 What's your impression, do George W. Bush and Al Gore take different positions on the issues or are they pretty similar in their positions on the issues?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
43	47	Different
25	24	Same
<u>32</u>	<u>29</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593] [REGISTERED VOTERS N=420]

Q.13c

F2 If George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, would that make you more interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President or would that make you less interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
41	40	More interested
45	46	Less interested
9	10	Neither (VOL. — DO NOT READ)
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	

ASK ALL:

M.1 Do you think a candidate's ability to raise money is a good measure of his or her ability to get things done or don't you think this is a good measure?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
36	30	Good measure
58	65	Not a good measure
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	

Q.14 Now a few questions about national issues. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)**)¹¹

ASK FORM 1 [N=607]		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Important</u> <u>But lower</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Should</u> <u>Not be</u> <u>Done</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Refused</u>
a.	Improving the job situation	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	57	29	7	4	3=100
c.	Cutting the capital gains tax	28	42	18	5	7=100
	January, 1999	24	40	18	5	13=100
	January, 1998	25	40	20	7	8=100
	January, 1997	29	38	17	8	8=100
	December, 1994	27	38	16	7	12=100
d.	Reducing crime	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2 =100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
e.	Paying off the national debt	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4=100
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2=100
f.	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100
g.	Reforming the campaign finance system	28	37	23	7	5=100
	January, 1999	29	36	21	6	8=100
	January, 1998	32	34	24	5	5=100
	January, 1997	31	37	23	5	4=100

¹¹

In previous surveys the question was worded: "Now a few questions about priorities for President Clinton and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)**)?"

Q. 14 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Important</u> <u>But lower</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Should</u> <u>Not be</u> <u>Done</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Refused</u>
h.	Dealing with the problems of families with children	58	28	6	4	4=100
	January, 1999	58	30	5	3	4=100
	January, 1998	55	30	9	4	2=100
i.	Strengthening gun control laws	51	23	11	12	3=100
j.	Providing Internet access for everyone who wants or needs it	11	22	40	22	5=100
ASK FORM 2 [N=593]:						
k.	Improving the educational system	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
l.	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
m.	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
n.	Working to reduce racial tensions	49	37	8	4	2=100
	January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2=100
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1=100
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2=100
o.	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
p.	Protecting the environment	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
q.	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100

Q. 14 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Top Priority</u>	<u>Important But lower Priority</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Should Not be Done</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
r.	Developing a policy about the use of American military forces in other countries	42	34	12	8	4=100
s.	Limiting access to abortions	26	26	18	26	4=100

[NO QUESTION 15]

**ASK ALL:
ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.16 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N= 875]:

		<u>Oct 1998</u>	<u>Sept 1998</u>	<u>March 1998</u>	<u>Jan 1998</u>	<u>Aug 1997</u>	<u>Early Nov 1996</u>	<u>Oct 1996</u>	<u>Late Sept 1996</u>	<u>Early Sept 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1994</u>	<u>Early Oct 1994</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>	<u>--Gallup-- Oct 25-28 1990</u>
66	Yes	58	63	63	66	66	60	62	55	62	58	55	49	62
23	No	20	20	21	23	22	16	19	17	19	25	30	29	22
*	Congressperson is not running (VOL.)	2	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
<u>11</u>	No opinion	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.17 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:

		<u>Oct 1998</u>	<u>Sept 1998</u>	<u>March 1998</u>	<u>Jan 1998</u>	<u>Aug 1997</u>	<u>Early Sept 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1994</u>	<u>Late Oct 1994</u>	<u>Early Oct 1994</u>
41	Yes	39	46	45	44	45	43	31	31	28
47	No	39	36	41	43	42	43	51	56	56
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.18 Suppose a member of Congress said he or she would only serve three terms but has now decided to run for a fourth term. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:

36	Should be
57	Shouldn't be
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ROTATE Q.19/20, Q.21/22 AND Q.23/24 IN BLOCKS:

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:

Q.19F1

Suppose a member of Congress voted FOR impeaching and trying President Clinton. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=455]:

57	Should be
31	Shouldn't be
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:

Q.20F2 Suppose a member of Congress voted AGAINST impeaching and trying President Clinton. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=420]:

52	Should be
38	Shouldn't be
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:

Q.21F1 Suppose a member of Congress voted AGAINST gun control. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=455]:

35	Should be
55	Shouldn't be
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:

Q.22 F2 Suppose a member of Congress voted FOR gun control. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=420]:

69	Should be
25	Shouldn't be
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 (WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY) ONLY [N=492]:

Q.23F1 Suppose a member of Congress voted FOR a limit on the amount of money political parties can raise and spend. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=365]:

74	Should be
17	Shouldn't be
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 (WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY) ONLY [N=458]:

Q.24F2 Suppose a member of Congress voted AGAINST a limit on the amount of money political parties can raise and spend. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=319]:

52	Should be
36	Shouldn't be
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

[NO QUESTION 25]

ASK ALL:

NOW, THINKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AGAIN...

Q.26 Based on what you've heard or read, have the candidates for president raised more money, less money, or about the same amount as in past presidential elections?

46	More
5	Less
24	Same
<u>25</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF MORE "1" IN Q.26, ASK [N=579]:

Q.27 Has any one candidate raised significantly more money than the others?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

35	Yes
3	No
<u>62</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF YES (1) IN Q.27, ASK:

Q.28 Do you happen to know who has raised significantly more money than the others?(**OPEN-END, PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY**)

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

29	George W. Bush
1	Al Gore
0	Bill Bradley
0	Elizabeth Dole
0	John McCain
*	Steve Forbes
*	Dan Quayle
0	Patrick Buchanan
*	Other
<u>70</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Do you happen to know which candidates for president, if any, have been trying to reform the way election campaigns are financed? (**OPEN-END, PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR THEM. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES**)

2	George W. Bush
3	Al Gore
1	Bill Bradley
*	Elizabeth Dole
3	John McCain
1	Steve Forbes
*	Dan Quayle
1	Patrick Buchanan
3	Other
<u>86</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT....

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:

Q.30F1 President Clinton has proposed setting aside approximately two-thirds of an expected budget surplus to fix the Social Security system. What do you think the leaders in Washington should do with the remainder of the surplus? Should the money be used for a tax cut, OR should it be used to fund new government programs?

		February
		<u>1999</u>
60	Should be used for a tax cut	53
25	Should be used to fund new programs	34
11	Should be used for some other purpose (VOL.)	9
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:

Q.31F2 President Clinton has proposed setting aside approximately two-thirds of an expected budget surplus to fix the Social Security system. What do you think the leaders in Washington should do with the remainder of the surplus? Should the money be used for a tax cut, OR should it be spent on programs for education, the environment, health care, crime-fighting and military defense?

		February <u>1999</u>
22	Should be used for a tax cut	27
69	Should be spent on programs	65
6	Should be used for some other purpose (VOL.)	5
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

NO QUESTION 32/32a

ASK ALL:

Q.32b Do you think the laws should be changed to allow patients to sue insurance companies which deny or delay medical treatments, OR do you think this would increase the cost of insurance too much?

		September <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>
54	Laws should be changed	57	53
37	Would increase costs too much	35	35
9	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100

NOW A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE...

IF FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE PROPOSALS (1,2,3) IN Q.6e, ASK [N=977]:

Q.33 Generally, do you favor or oppose President Clinton's plan to change the Medicare system?

51	Favor
24	Oppose
<u>25</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.34 President Clinton has proposed a number of specific changes to the Medicare system. As I read each proposal, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it. How about (INSERT ITEM), do you favor or oppose this proposal? (READ AND ROTATE ITEMS)

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	DK <u>(VOL.)</u>
a.	Allowing Medicare recipients to buy prescription drug coverage for \$24 a month	79	15	6=100
b.	Increasing the deductible that patients pay for doctor visits by the cost of living	42	51	7=100
c.	Eliminating co-payments and deductibles for preventative services, such as pelvic exams and prostate cancer screenings	67	27	6=100

Q. 34 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK</u>
d. Allowing those age 62-65 to now purchase Medicare benefits for \$300 per month	51	37	12=100
e. Using part of the projected budget surplus to make Medicare financially secure	82	13	5=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.35 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>Don't know</u>
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 YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.35, ASK:

Q.36 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

	<u>June</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>June</u>
	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u> ¹²
49 Goes online	50	48	51	49	49	47	42	37	42	43	36	23	14
51 Does not go online	50	52	49	51	51	53	58	63	58	57	63	77	86
0 Don't know/Refused	*	0	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	1	0	*
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹²

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?

IF YES (GO ONLINE) IN Q.36, ASK [N=643]:

Q.37 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?

		Dec <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1996</u>
17	Within last 6 months	20	26
23	1 year ago	26	38
32	2-3 years ago	34	24
28	More than 3 years ago	19	12
*	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100

Q.38 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?

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

Q.39 Do you ever send or receive e-mail or electronic mail? (IF YES, ASK: Is this everyday, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, or less often?)

		Dec <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1996</u>	June <u>1995</u>
46	Everyday	33	26	23
17	3-5 days per week	22	19	15
14	1-2 days per week	17	19	15
8	Once every few weeks	9	13	12
4	Less often	4	6	7
11	No/never	15	17	28
*	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100	100

IF YES (USE E-MAIL) IN Q.39 ASK [N=574]:

Q.39a Do you only use e-mail for routine messages, or do you also use it for more important messages?

41	Routine messages only
58	Important messages too
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.40 Do you get a lot of unwanted e-mail messages, or isn't this a problem for you?

36 Get a lot of unwanted e-mail
64 Not a problem -- **GO TO Q.42**
0 Don't know/Refused -- **GO TO Q.42**
100

IF GET A LOT OF JUNK E-MAIL (1) IN Q.40 ASK [N=204]:

Q.40a Are the unwanted e-mail messages sales solicitations, listserv messages, or e-mails from other people?

72 Sales solicitations
9 Listserv messages
18 E-mails from other people
1 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.41 Do you get so many unwanted e-mail messages that it's hard to get to the ones you want to read, or not?

40 Yes
59 No
1 Don't know/Refused
100

IF YES (USE E-MAIL) IN Q.39 ASK [N=574]:

Q.42 All in all, has having e-mail improved your relationships with your family and friends, worsened your relationships with them, or hasn't it affected your relationships with them?

43 Improved relationships
1 Worsened relationships
56 Hasn't affected relationships
* Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT....

Q.43 Looking back, do you think Bill Clinton made the right decision to remain in office during the investigation into his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, OR do you think Clinton should have resigned?

60 Made right decision to remain in office
35 Clinton should have resigned
5 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.44 Do you think the House of Representatives made the right decision to impeach Bill Clinton, OR do you think the House should not have impeached Clinton?

44 Made right decision to impeach Clinton
51 Should not have impeached Clinton
5 Don't know/Refused
100