

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2010 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
 May 6-9, 2010
 N=994

ASK ALL:

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>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

ASK ALL:

Q.2 As I read some possible government policies to address America's energy supply, tell me whether you would favor or oppose each. First, would you favor or oppose the government **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**? How about the government... **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Promoting the increased use of nuclear power			
May 6-9, 2010	45	44	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	52	41	7
Apr 14-21, 2009	45	48	7
September, 2008	50	43	7
Late-February, 2008	44	48	8
February, 2006	44	49	7
Mid-September, 2005	39	53	8
b. Spending more on subway, rail and bus systems			
May 6-9, 2010	65	28	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	70	25	4
Apr 14-21, 2009	70	25	5
Late-February, 2008	72	23	5
February, 2006	68	26	6
Mid-September, 2005	68	27	5

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
c.	Increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology			
	May 6-9, 2010	73	22	5
	Feb 3-9, 2010	78	17	5
	Apr 14-21, 2009	82	15	3
	September, 2008	82	14	4
	Late-February, 2008	81	14	5
	February, 2006	82	14	4
d.	Allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters			
	May 6-9, 2010	54	38	8
	Feb 3-9, 2010	63	31	6
	Apr 14-21, 2009	68	27	5
	September, 2008	67	28	5

ASK ALL:

Thinking again about Barack Obama...

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]
How about [NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>approve</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The economy			
	May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
	Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
	Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
	Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
	Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
	Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20

QUESTION 3b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

c.	Terrorist threats			
	May 6-9, 2010	49	37	13
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	34	14
	April 14-21, 2009 ¹	57	26	17
	February 4-8, 2009	50	21	29

¹ In the surveys conducted February 4-8, 2009, and April 14-21, 2009, the item was worded “the threat of terrorism.”

Q.3 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
d.	The oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico May 6-9, 2010	38	36	26
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON				
<i>Obama</i>	<i>The government's response to the earthquake in Haiti</i>			
	Feb 3-9, 2010	66	16	18
	Jan 14-17, 2010	64	14	21
<i>G.W. Bush</i>	<i>The impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast</i>			
	March, 2006	32	58	10
	September, 2005	38	52	10
<i>G.H.W. Bush</i>	<i>The oil spill in Alaska from the tanker Exxon Valdez</i>			
	<i>LA Times, April 1989²</i>	24	52	24

QUESTION 4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.5 How would you rate the job [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] has been doing responding to the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico? [READ]

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	The federal government May 6-9, 2010	4	29	35	19	13
TREND FOR COMPARISON						
	<i>Responding to Hurricane Katrina</i>					
	September 8-11, 2005	8	29	30	31	2
	September 6-7, 2005	8	30	29	29	4
b.	B.P., the oil company that operated the oil rig May 6-9, 2010	5	19	36	27	13

² The 1989 *Los Angeles Times* question was worded "Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush has handled the oil spill in Alaska from the tanker Exxon Valdez--or haven't you heard enough about that yet to say? Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat? Those who had not heard enough are included here in the DK/Ref. category.

ASK ALL:

Q.6 In your opinion, did President Obama do all he could to get the government’s response to the oil leak going quickly or do you think he could have done more?

May 6-9

2010

36	Did all he could
47	Could have done more
17	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON (Hurricane Katrina)

In your opinion, did President Bush do all he could to get relief efforts going quickly or do you think he could have done more?

Sept 6-7

2005

Did all he could	28
Could have done more	67
Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	5

ASK ALL:

Q.7 From what you’ve seen and heard, do you think that the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico is [READ]...

May 6-9

2010

55	A major environmental disaster
37	A serious environmental problem, but not a disaster [OR]
4	Is it not too serious an environmental problem
1	Too soon to tell (VOL.)
3	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.8 From what you’ve seen and heard, do you think the efforts to control the spill and prevent it from spreading further will be successful or unsuccessful?

May 6-9

2010

51	Successful
29	Unsuccessful
20	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Do you think oil spills like the one in the Gulf of Mexico are unavoidable if the United States is going to get an adequate supply of energy, or don’t you think so?

TREND FOR COMPARISON

CBS/NYT

Oil spill in Alaska

Apr 1989

May 6-9

2010

41	Yes, unavoidable	74
45	No, don’t think so	18
14	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	8

QUESTIONS 10 THROUGH 13 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

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

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

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 <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
May 6-9, 2010	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	14