

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS**  
**OCTOBER 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**October 14-18, 1998**  
**N = 1,532 Registered Voters**

**NOTE: ALL RESULTS, INCLUDING TREND FIGURES, ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.**

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

Q.1 How much thought have you given to the coming November election, quite a lot, or only a little?

	Quite <u>A lot</u>	(VOL) <u>Some</u>	Only a <u>Little</u>	None/DK/ <u>Refused</u>
October, 1998	42	8	43	7=100
November, 1994	56	7	32	5=100
October, 1994	45	7	45	3=100
October, 1994	44	2	50	4=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990 <sup>1</sup>	43	7	46	4=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1982	29	22	37	12=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1978	23	22	39	17=100
<i>Gallup</i> : September, 1978	21	18	44	18=100

R.1 These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?

**IF YES, ASK:**

R.2 Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote, or is there a chance your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

Yes, registered

Yes, absolutely certain

Chance registration may have lapsed — **GO TO D.1**

DK/Refused — **GO TO D.1**

No, not registered — **GO TO D.1**

DK/Refused — **GO TO D.1**

100

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<sup>1</sup>

Gallup trends based on total respondents.

Q.2 How closely have you followed news about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district?  
Have you followed it very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK <u>Refused</u>
October, 1998	21	43	24	11	1=100
Early September, 1998	20	35	28	17	*=100
Early August, 1998	16	35	25	24	*=100
June, 1998	12	31	32	25	*=100
April, 1998 <sup>2</sup>	19	37	23	21	*=100
November, 1994	23	49	21	7	*=100
October, 1994	18	43	28	10	1=100
Early October, 1994	28	37	21	14	*=100
September, 1994	22	37	28	13	*=100
November, 1990 <sup>3</sup>	44	36	13	7	*=100
October, 1990 <sup>4</sup>	18	32	28	22	*=100

Q.3 Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

	Nov <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>
87 Yes	85	85	91
13 No	15	15	9
* Don't know/Refused	*	*	*
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.4 Do you happen to know where people in your neighborhood go to vote?

		<i>-- Gallup --</i>				
		Nov <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>	Nov <u>1988</u>	Oct <u>1988</u>
87	Yes — gives answer	88	85	93	89	88
<u>13</u>	No/Don't know/Refused/No Answer	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

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2 In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."

3 In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

4 October 1990 trend based on total respondents.

Q.5 Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then or hardly at all?

	<u>Most of The Time</u>	<u>Some of the Time</u>	<u>Only Now and Then</u>	<u>Hardly at All</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
October, 1998	51	33	11	5	*=100
Early September, 1998	52	33	11	4	*=100
June, 1998	42	33	18	7	*=100
November, 1997	47	35	14	4	*=100
November, 1996	52	32	12	4	*=100
October, 1996	43	37	13	6	1=100
October, 1995	52	33	11	4	*=100
April, 1995	49	34	13	4	*=100
November, 1994	57	30	10	3	*=100
October, 1994	52	34	10	4	0=100
July, 1994	51	32	13	4	*=100
May, 1990	43	36	15	6	*=100
October, 1988	52	33	12	3	*=100
May, 1988	42	37	15	4	2=100
January, 1988	42	35	17	5	1=100
May, 1987	47	35	13	4	1=100

Q.6 How often would you say you vote... always, nearly always, part of the time or seldom?

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Nearly Always</u>	<u>Part of The time</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>(VOL) Other</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
October, 1998	50	32	11	5	1	1	*=100
Early September, 1998	53	33	9	4	1	0	*=100
Late August, 1998	48	35	13	4	0	*	*=100
June, 1998	49	33	12	5	1	0	0=100
November, 1997	42	44	10	3	*	1	*=100
September, 1997	62	26	8	3	*	1	*=100
June, 1996	52	33	9	4	1	1	*=100
February, 1996	42	41	11	4	1	1	*=100
October, 1995	53	35	7	4	*	1	*=100
April, 1995	53	34	9	4	*	*	*=100
November, 1994	58	28	8	5	1	*	0=100
October, 1994	55	32	10	3	*	*	*=100
July, 1994	52	34	10	4	*	*	*=100
June, 1992	60	29	7	3	1	*	*=100
May, 1992	50	35	10	4	*	1	*=100
November, 1991	46	41	9	4	0	*	*=100
May, 1990	42	42	11	4	*	1	1=100
May, 1988	43	41	11	3	1	2	*=100
January, 1988	49	39	9	2	*	1	*=100
May, 1987	43	43	9	3	1	1	*=100

Q.7 If the 1998 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

**IF '3' OTHER, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED IN Q.7, ASK:**

Q.8 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

	Republican/ <u>Lean Rep.</u>	Democrat/ <u>Lean Dem.</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
October, 1998	43	44	13=100
Early September, 1998	45	46	9=100
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100
June, 1998	44	46	10=100
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
Early November, 1996 <sup>5</sup>	44	48	8=100
October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
July, 1996	46	47	7=100
June, 1996	44	50	6=100
March, 1996	44	49	7=100
January, 1996	46	47	7=100
October, 1995	48	48	4=100
August, 1995	50	43	7=100
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

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<sup>5</sup>

Early November 1996 trend based on likely voters.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.9 Do you, yourself, plan to vote in the election this November?

	Yes, Plan To Vote	No, Don't Plan To	Can't Say/DK
October, 1998	92	4	4=100
Early September, 1998†	95	2	3=100
Late August, 1998†	93	3	4=100
June, 1998†	95	3	2=100
November, 1996 <sup>6</sup>	96	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	98	1	1=100
Early September, 1996	96	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	2	2=100
November, 1994†	93	5	2=100
Late October, 1994†	95	3	2=100
Early October, 1992	98	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	1	1=100
August, 1992	97	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	1	2=100
Gallup: November, 1988	97	2	1=100
Gallup: October, 1988	98	1	1=100

† Non-Presidential elections

Q.10 Next, I'd like you to rate your chances of voting in the election this November on a scale of 10 to 1. If 10 represents a person who DEFINITELY will vote and 1 represents a person who definitely will NOT vote, where on this scale of 10 to 1 would you place yourself?

	Definitely will vote										Definitely will not vote	DK/Ref
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		
October, 1998	64	9	10	4	2	4	1	2	1	2	1=100	
November, 1996	77	7	7	2	1	2	*	1	*	2	1=100	
October, 1996	77	9	7	2	2	2	*	*	*	1	*=100	
September, 1996	78	10	6	2	1	1	*	*	*	1	1=100	
November, 1994	67	9	8	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	2=100	
October, 1994	66	10	9	4	2	4	1	1	*	2	1=100	
Gallup: September, 1992	77	5	4	3	2	4	*	1	*	4	*=100	
Gallup: November, 1988	77	7	6	2	1	3	*	*	*	2	2=100	
Gallup: October, 1988	73	8	7	3	2	3	1	*	*	1	2=100	

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In November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

Q.11 Now I will read a list of some other things that have been in the news 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? **[READ AND ROTATE LIST]**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a. The decision by the House of Representatives to start a formal impeachment inquiry against President Clinton	50	32	11	6	1=100
b. NATO efforts to settle the violence and unrest in the Serbian province of Kosovo March, 1998 <sup>7</sup>	21 6	34 13	26 26	18 53	1=100 2=100
c. Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East	21	40	27	12	*=100
d. Financial instability around the world	32	40	19	9	*=100

Now thinking again about the upcoming elections...

Q.12 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district — national issues, local or state issues, the candidate's political party, or the candidate's character or experience? **(IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?)**

	National <u>Issue</u>	State/Local <u>Issue</u>	Political <u>Party</u>	Character/ <u>Experience</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
October, 1998	23	36	7	28	1	*	5=100
Early September, 1998	22	34	5	33	2	*	4=100
Early August, 1998	20	38	5	31	2	*	4=100
June, 1998	22	37	4	32	1	1	3=100
March, 1998	18	37	6	35	1	1	2=100
November, 1996	23	38	6	25	2	*	6=100
October, 1996	19	45	7	26	1	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	25	38	6	24	2	*	5=100
Early September, 1996	18	42	6	30	1	*	3=100
November, 1994	22	38	5	30	1	*	4=100
Late October, 1994	22	38	3	29	3	1	4=100
Early October, 1994	22	27	5	39	2	1	4=100
CBS/NYT: 10/24-28, 1986	22	25	6	40	1	1	5=100
CBS/NYT: 9/28-10/1, 1986	20	23	9	41	3	*	4=100

<sup>7</sup>

In March 1998 the question was worded "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."

**ROTATE Q.13 AND Q.14**

Q.13 Thinking about your vote for Congress this fall, will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote, or not?

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	June <u>1998</u>
47	Yes, will be a factor	41	44	45
49	No, will not	56	53	51
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.14 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for Bill Clinton, as a vote against Bill Clinton, or isn't Bill Clinton much of a factor in your vote?

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>Factor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100
Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
<i>CBS/NYT (BUSH): 10/28-31, 1990</i>	19	15	61	6=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/24-28, 1986</i>	26	12	55	7=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 9/28-10/1, 1986</i>	26	16	51	7=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/23-28, 1982</i>	23	21	51	5=100

**NO QUESTION 15**

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

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL) Congressman is <u>not running</u>	NO <u>Opinion</u>
October, 1998	58	20	2	20=100
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16=100
March, 1998	63	21	1	15=100
January, 1998	66	23	0	11=100
August, 1997	66	22	0	12=100
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21=100
October, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26=100
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
November, 1994	58	25	1	16=100
October, 1994	55	30	2	13=100
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1990</i>	62	22	2	14=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?

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

Now, on a different subject...

Q.18 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president? **(IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. 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 CODE 9.)**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
October, 1998	62	34	4=100
Early September, 1998	59	36	5=100
Late August, 1998	63	33	4=100
Early August, 1998	64	30	6=100
June, 1998	59	33	8=100
May, 1998	59	31	10=100
April, 1998	63	30	7=100
March, 1998	65	27	8=100
Early February, 1998	71	27	2=100
January, 1998	61	33	6=100

Q.19 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>
October, 1998	42	48	10=100
Early September, 1998	45	39	16=100
Late August, 1998	50	38	12=100
Early August, 1998	46	39	15=100
June, 1998	42	41	17=100
May, 1998	40	42	18=100
April, 1998	42	43	15=100
March, 1998	44	41	15=100
January, 1998	44	44	12=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=768]**

Q.20F1 What one issue would you most like to hear the candidates in your state or district talk about this fall?  
**(OPEN-ENDED; ACCEPT UP TO THREE MENTIONS)**

		Early Sept	June
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
24	Education issues	20	20
8	Taxation	11	13
8	Health care	6	5
6	Crime/Crime control/All other crime issues	9	14
6	Economy/Economic issues	8	4
6	Social Security	4	9
3	Politicians/Political system	3	--
3	State/local issues	4	--
3	Foreign policy/International relations	4	2
3	Morality/Character issues	4	4
3	Balanced budget	2	3
3	Bill Clinton	--	--
3	Jobs/Employment	4	5
3	Poverty/Homelessness	2	2
2	Abortion	2	4
2	Size/Scope of Government	2	--
2	Environment	2	2
2	Caring for seniors/Elder care	1	--
1	Welfare reform	3	--
1	Wages/salaries	1	--
1	Family/Child care issues	1	3
*	Highway improvement/Road construction	1	1
*	None	*	*
2	No answer/DK/Refused	21	18

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=764]**

Q.21F2 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **(PROBE FOR CLARITY. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION) (OPEN-END) ('NONE' AND 'DK/REF' ARE HARD CODED)**

		May <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1994</u>
17	Economy (general)	4	7
10	Morality/Ethics/Family values	11	9
9	Education	10	2
8	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	11	29
6	Dissatisfaction with government/politics	5	5
6	Scandal/Corruption in government	5	--
5	Other international issues (includes mentions of Iraq/Saddam Hussein)	2	--
5	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	5	9
4	Bill Clinton	--	--
4	Issues related to elderly	3	*
4	Drugs/Alcohol	7	2
3	Health care/Cost, availability of health care	4	11
2	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	5	8
2	Poverty	3	2
2	Inflation/Difference between wages/Costs	2	2
2	Too much foreign aid/Spend money at home	2	2
1	Racism	1	*
1	Welfare abuse	3	1
1	Taxes	4	2
1	Other social issues	2	--
1	Environment/Pollution	1	*
1	Other defense issues	1	--
1	Homelessness	2	3
1	Terrorism	*	--
*	Other domestic issues	1	--
--	Other	5	4
*	None	*	--
1	Don't know/No answer	11	4
<b>27</b>	<b>ECONOMIC (NET)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DEFENSE/INTERNATIONAL (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.22 Generally what is more important to you this year... **(READ)?**

		Oct <u>1994</u>
22	Having new faces in office OR Having experienced people who know how the government works	31
66	Don't know/Refused	57
<u>12</u>		<u>12</u>
100		100

Q.23 Now I'd like your views on some people and things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

**ALWAYS ASK PEOPLE (items d - j) SECOND; ROTATE ITEMS WITHIN GROUPS. OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES: [FORM 1 N=768; FORM 2 N=764]**

		Very Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Very Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Never <u>Of</u>	Can't <u>Rate</u>
a.	The Republican Party	9	43	28	14	0	6=100
	Early September, 1998	9	48	27	10	*	6=100
	March, 1998	9	41	33	12	*	5=100
b.	The Democratic Party	11	45	29	9	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	12	47	26	9	*	6=100
	March, 1998	15	44	25	11	*	5=100
c.	The Congress	7	55	25	8	0	5=100
	Early September, 1998	7	60	24	4	0	5=100
d.	Bill Clinton	15	37	20	24	0	4=100
	Early September, 1998	17	37	19	25	0	2=100
	Late August, 1998	18	34	19	28	0	1=100
	March, 1998	22	38	20	17	0	3=100
e.F1	Hillary Clinton	24	34	18	18	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	25	38	19	14	0	4=100
	Late August, 1998	25	38	20	14	*	3=100
	March, 1998	27	38	18	14	*	3=100
f.F2	Al Gore	16	37	25	13	1	8=100
	Early September, 1998	12	43	24	14	1	6=100
	Late August, 1998	11	44	24	16	*	5=100
	March, 1998	18	41	19	12	2	8=100
g.F1	Newt Gingrich	8	33	26	23	1	9=100
	Early September, 1998	7	35	28	20	3	7=100
	Late August, 1998	5	38	33	19	2	3=100
	March, 1998	6	31	29	23	3	8=100
h.F2	Trent Lott	6	24	18	9	24	19=100
	Early September, 1998	5	24	18	5	31	17=100
	March, 1998	3	15	12	8	47	15=100

**Q.23 CONTINUED ...**

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
i.F1	Kenneth Starr	13	23	22	34	2	6=100
	Early September, 1998	8	25	25	31	5	6=100
	Late August, 1998	8	25	24	34	3	6=100
	March, 1998	6	18	25	27	14	10=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , January 1998 <sup>8</sup>		24		24	29	23=100

**ONLY ASKED OCT 16-18: [N=479]**

j.F2	Secretary of State Madeleine Albright	21	47	12	5	4	11=100
	January, 1997	14	46	12	3	7	18=100

**Q.24 Which of these best describes you... (READ)**

		Early Sept 1998	Late Aug 1998	Early Feb 1998
26	I like Bill Clinton personally and I like his policies, OR	30	32	40
41	I don't like Bill Clinton personally but I like his policies, OR	38	35	30
27	I don't like Bill Clinton personally and I don't like his policies	27	28	24
2	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> I like Bill Clinton personally but I don't like his policies	2	2	3
<u>4</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100

On another subject...

**Q.25 Compared to recent Congresses, would you say THIS Congress has accomplished more, accomplished less, or accomplished about the same amount?**

		Early Sept 1998	Early Aug 1998	Nov 1997
24	More	24	18	25
23	Less	17	15	13
49	Same	55	62	59
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100

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<sup>8</sup> Gallup trend based on total respondents.

**IF ANSWERED “LESS” ASK: [N=366]**

Q.26 Who do you think is most to blame for this... Republican leaders in Congress, Democratic leaders in Congress, or President Clinton?

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>
53	Republican leaders	42
5	Democratic leaders	6
19	President Clinton	18
19	Some combination (VOL)	30
<u>4</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.27 Now I'm going to read some things that have been in news recently. Please tell me how important each item is for the country... very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important. First, how important for the country is (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)? Is this very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

**INTERVIEWER: OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES: [FORM 1 N=768; FORM 2 N=764]**

		<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Fairly</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u>
a.F1	Government efforts to regulate the sale of tobacco products	37	21	25	16	1=100
	June, 1998	41	28	18	11	2=100
b.F2	Reforming the campaign finance laws	48	35	12	2	3=100
	June, 1998	51	33	12	3	1=100
c.F1	The debate in Washington about regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	66	23	6	3	2=100
	June, 1998	69	24	4	3	0=100
d.	The investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky	19	13	22	44	2=100
	June, 1998	18	16	18	47	1=100
e.	The outcome of the 1998 congressional elections and specifically which party controls Congress	55	29	10	3	3=100
	June, 1998	52	32	12	3	1=100
f.F2	The debate in Washington over whether to use the federal budget surplus for tax cuts or to insure the financial stability of the Social Security system	77	19	1	2	1=100
g.F1	Proposals in Congress to cut taxes for middle class Americans	63	27	7	2	1=100
h.F2	U.S. efforts to ease the global economic crisis and keep the U.S. economy strong	74	21	2	2	1=100

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.28 Looking ahead, do you expect that at this time next year you will be financially better off than now, or worse off than now?

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Jan <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1991</u>	May <u>1990</u>
59	Better off	66	56	46	41
17	Worse off	15	21	28	24
17	Same (VOL)	15	18	18	30
<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.29 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	May <u>1990</u>
16	Better	18	17
22	Worse	17	32
57	Same	62	45
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

Now a few questions about the allegations against Bill Clinton...

Q.30 How much confidence do you have in the Congress as a whole to come to the right decision about whether or not to impeach Bill Clinton and remove him from office — a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all?

13	Great deal
35	Fair amount
29	Not too much
19	None at all
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.31 Thinking about the decision by Congress to begin an impeachment inquiry against President Clinton, how do you feel about the members who voted in FAVOR of this? Is your opinion of them (READ)?

21	Very favorable
26	Mostly favorable
24	Mostly Unfavorable OR
25	Very unfavorable
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

Q.32 Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

32 Should be impeached  
62 Should not  
6 Don't know/Refused  
100

**ROTATE Q.33 AND Q.34**

Thinking again about the Congress...

Q.33 Generally, do you think most Democratic members of Congress have been too loyal to President Clinton, loyal enough, OR do you think they should have shown more loyalty to him?

23 Dems. too loyal  
42 Dems. have been loyal enough  
27 Dems. should have shown more loyalty  
8 Don't know/Refused  
100

Q.34 Generally, do you think most Republican members of Congress have pushed too hard for the impeachment of President Clinton, not pushed hard enough, OR do you think they have acted in about the right way?

52 Reps. have pushed too hard  
9 Reps. have not pushed hard enough  
35 Reps. have acted in the right way  
4 Don't know/Refused  
100

Now, just one final question about the upcoming elections...

Q.35 Some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your own personal daily schedule in mind, rate the chances that you will vote in the U.S. House of Representatives election this November. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, less than 50-50, or don't you think you will vote in the House of Representatives election this November?

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	June <u>1998</u>	-- ABC/Wash. Post -- <u>July 1990</u> <sup>9</sup>
68	Absolutely certain to vote	70	63	53
19	Will probably vote	19	19	21
7	Chances 50-50	8	14	15
2	Less than 50-50	1	2	4
3	Don't think will vote	2	2	6
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	*	*	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.36 And will the candidate's likely position on impeaching Bill Clinton be a factor in your vote, or won't this be a factor?

40	Yes, will be a factor
55	No, will not be a factor
<u>5</u>	DK/Refused
100	

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<sup>9</sup>

The ABC/Washington Post trend is based on total respondents. The question was worded "Some people have busier schedules than others. Because of this, some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your own personal daily schedule in mind, I'd like to rate the chances that you will vote in the U.S. House of Representatives election in November in the Congressional district where you live: are you absolutely certain to vote ..."