

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 2-7, 2011**  
**N=1,385**

**QUESTIONS 1-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about the issue of immigration...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.67 What should be the priority for dealing with ILLEGAL immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE;** (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?

| Feb 2-7<br><u>2011</u> |   | Aug 25-Sep 6<br><u>2010</u> | Jul 21-Aug 5<br><u>2010</u> |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 35                     | Better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws                                 | 30                          | 33                          |
| 21                     | Creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements | 23                          | 22                          |
| 42                     | Should BOTH be given equal priority   | 44                          | 42                          |
| 1                      | None of these <b>(VOL.)</b>   | 1                           | 1                           |
| 2                      | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>  | 1                           | 3                           |

**NO QUESTION 68**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.69 As you may know, last year the state of Arizona passed a law that requires police to verify the legal status of someone they have already stopped or arrested if they suspect that the person is in the country illegally. Do you approve or disapprove of Arizona's immigration law?

| Feb 2-7<br><u>2011</u> |                                  | Jun 16-20<br><u>2010</u> <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 61                     | Approve                          | 64                                    |
| 34                     | Disapprove                       | 32                                    |
| 5                      | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> | 3                                     |

**NO QUESTIONS 70-71**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.72 Were you aware that a child born to illegal immigrants in the U.S. is automatically a U.S. citizen, or weren't you aware of that?

| Feb 2-7<br><u>2011</u> |                                  | Jun 16-20<br><u>2010</u> | March<br><u>2006</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 87                     | Yes, aware                       | 85                       | 80                   |
| 12                     | No, not aware                    | 14                       | 19                   |
| 1                      | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> | *                        | 1                    |

<sup>1</sup> In June 2010, the question began, "As you may know, the state of Arizona recently passed..."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.73 Would you favor changing the Constitution so that the parents must be legal residents of the U.S. in order for their newborn child to be a citizen, or should the Constitution be left as it is?

| Feb 2-7<br><u>2011</u> |                                  | Jun 16-20<br><u>2010</u> | March<br><u>2006</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 39                     | Favor changing Constitution      | 41                       | 42                   |
| 57                     | Leave Constitution as is         | 56                       | 54                   |
| 4                      | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> | 4                        | 4                    |

**ASK ALL:**

Q.74 What, if anything, is your biggest concern about illegal immigration? Is it that... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

| Feb 2-7<br><u>2011</u> |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 40                     | It's a burden on government services          |
| 27                     | It hurts American jobs,                       |
| 9                      | It contributes to crime                       |
| 6                      | It hurts American customs and its way of life |
| 4                      | Other <b>(VOL.)</b>                           |
| 7                      | No concerns <b>(VOL.)</b>                     |
| 7                      | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>              |

**NO QUESTION 75****ASK ALL:**

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

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

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

|                      |            |          |             | (VOL.)        | (VOL.)      | (VOL.) | Lean | Lean |
|----------------------|------------|----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------|------|------|
|                      | Republican | Democrat | Independent | No preference | Other party | DK/Ref | Rep  | Dem  |
| Feb 2-7, 2011        | 24         | 31       | 39          | 3             | *           | 2      | 16   | 16   |
| Jan 5-9, 2011        | 27         | 32       | 35          | 4             | *           | 2      | 15   | 14   |
| Dec 1-5, 2010        | 25         | 33       | 34          | 5             | 1           | 2      | 13   | 14   |
| Nov 4-7, 2010        | 26         | 30       | 37          | 4             | *           | 2      | 17   | 13   |
| Oct 27-30, 2010      | 25         | 34       | 31          | 6             | 1           | 4      | 13   | 11   |
| Oct 13-18, 2010      | 25         | 31       | 36          | 4             | *           | 3      | 16   | 13   |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010   | 24         | 32       | 39          | 2             | *           | 2      | 15   | 17   |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010   | 26         | 33       | 34          | 4             | *           | 3      | 14   | 14   |
| Jun 16-20, 2010      | 27         | 34       | 34          | 3             | 1           | 2      | 15   | 15   |
| Apr 21-26, 2010      | 26         | 33       | 36          | 3             | 1           | 3      | 16   | 13   |
| Mar 11-21, 2010      | 28         | 34       | 32          | 3             | *           | 3      | 13   | 12   |
| Mar 10-14, 2010      | 22         | 33       | 37          | 6             | *           | 3      | 14   | 13   |
| Feb 3-9, 2010        | 26         | 31       | 37          | 3             | *           | 3      | 14   | 17   |
| <b>Yearly Totals</b> |            |          |             |               |             |        |      |      |
| 2010                 | 25.2       | 32.7     | 35.2        | 3.6           | .4          | 2.8    | 14.5 | 14.1 |
| 2009                 | 23.9       | 34.4     | 35.1        | 3.4           | .4          | 2.8    | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008                 | 25.7       | 36.0     | 31.5        | 3.6           | .3          | 3.0    | 10.6 | 15.2 |
| 2007                 | 25.3       | 32.9     | 34.1        | 4.3           | .4          | 2.9    | 10.9 | 17.0 |
| 2006                 | 27.8       | 33.1     | 30.9        | 4.4           | .3          | 3.4    | 10.5 | 15.1 |
| 2005                 | 29.3       | 32.8     | 30.2        | 4.5           | .3          | 2.8    | 10.3 | 14.9 |
| 2004                 | 30.0       | 33.5     | 29.5        | 3.8           | .4          | 3.0    | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003                 | 30.3       | 31.5     | 30.5        | 4.8           | .5          | 2.5    | 12.0 | 12.6 |
| 2002                 | 30.4       | 31.4     | 29.8        | 5.0           | .7          | 2.7    | 12.4 | 11.6 |
| 2001                 | 29.0       | 33.2     | 29.5        | 5.2           | .6          | 2.6    | 11.9 | 11.6 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11    | 30.9       | 31.8     | 27.9        | 5.2           | .6          | 3.6    | 11.7 | 9.4  |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11     | 27.3       | 34.4     | 30.9        | 5.1           | .6          | 1.7    | 12.1 | 13.5 |
| 2000                 | 28.0       | 33.4     | 29.1        | 5.5           | .5          | 3.6    | 11.6 | 11.7 |

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

|      |            |          |             | (VOL.)        | (VOL.)      | (VOL.) | Lean | Lean |
|------|------------|----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------|------|------|
|      | Republican | Democrat | Independent | No preference | Other party | DK/Ref | Rep  | Dem  |
| 1999 | 26.6       | 33.5     | 33.7        | 3.9           | .5          | 1.9    | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.9       | 33.7     | 31.1        | 4.6           | .4          | 2.3    | 11.6 | 13.1 |
| 1997 | 28.0       | 33.4     | 32.0        | 4.0           | .4          | 2.3    | 12.2 | 14.1 |
| 1996 | 28.9       | 33.9     | 31.8        | 3.0           | .4          | 2.0    | 12.1 | 14.9 |
| 1995 | 31.6       | 30.0     | 33.7        | 2.4           | .6          | 1.3    | 15.1 | 13.5 |
| 1994 | 30.1       | 31.5     | 33.5        | 1.3           | --          | 3.6    | 13.7 | 12.2 |
| 1993 | 27.4       | 33.6     | 34.2        | 4.4           | 1.5         | 2.9    | 11.5 | 14.9 |
| 1992 | 27.6       | 33.7     | 34.7        | 1.5           | 0           | 2.5    | 12.6 | 16.5 |
| 1991 | 30.9       | 31.4     | 33.2        | 0             | 1.4         | 3.0    | 14.7 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 30.9       | 33.2     | 29.3        | 1.2           | 1.9         | 3.4    | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33         | 33       | 34          | --            | --          | --     | --   | --   |
| 1987 | 26         | 35       | 39          | --            | --          | --     | --   | --   |

## ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY

From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

|                                    |                |       |          |                   |                       | (VOL.)           | (VOL.)  | Not             |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|
|                                    | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | No opinion either way | Haven't heard of | Refused | heard of/<br>DK |
| Feb 2-7, 2011                      | 5              | 17    | 12       | 10                | 53                    | 2                | 2       | --              |
| Jan 5-9, 2011                      | 6              | 18    | 12       | 10                | 50                    | 2                | 1       | --              |
| Dec 1-5, 2010                      | 5              | 17    | 14       | 12                | 49                    | 2                | 2       | --              |
| Nov 4-7, 2010                      | 8              | 19    | 11       | 11                | 49                    | 1                | 1       | --              |
| Oct 27-30, 2010 <sup>2</sup> (RVs) | 12             | 17    | 11       | 14                | 32                    | --               | 1       | 13              |
| Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)              | 9              | 19    | 11       | 13                | 30                    | --               | 1       | 16              |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)           | 11             | 18    | 12       | 14                | 32                    | --               | 1       | 13              |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010                 | 8              | 14    | 9        | 9                 | 37                    | --               | 1       | 21              |
| Jun 16-20, 2010                    | 9              | 15    | 10       | 8                 | 30                    | --               | *       | 27              |
| May 20-23, 2010                    | 10             | 15    | 8        | 10                | 31                    | --               | 1       | 25              |
| Mar 11-21, 2010                    | 9              | 15    | 7        | 7                 | 29                    | --               | 1       | 31              |

<sup>2</sup>

In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party Protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."