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Bipartisan Support for Obama's Military Campaign Against ISIS

Dems Concerned about 'Going Too Far,' Reps 'Not Far Enough'

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research

Alec Tyson, Senior Researcher

Rachel Weisel, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

Bipartisan Support for Obama's Military Campaign Against ISIS

Dems Concerned about 'Going Too Far,' Reps 'Not Far Enough'

President Obama's plan for a military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria is drawing public support. And, in a rare display of bipartisanship, majorities of both Republicans (64%) and Democrats (60%) approve of the president's plan.

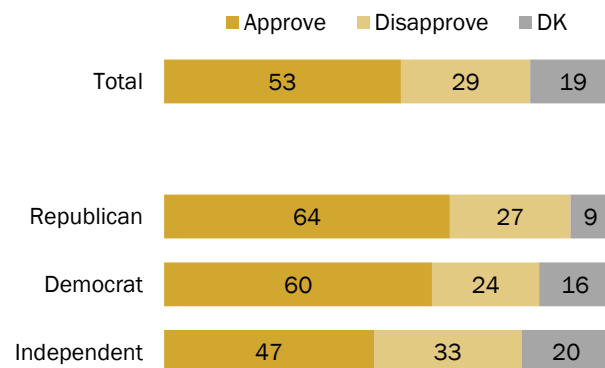
The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Sept. 11-14 among 1,003 adults, finds that overall, 53% approve of Obama's plan, while 29% disapprove; 19% do not offer an opinion.

While the public generally supports military action against ISIS, as many say their greater concern is that the U.S. will go too far in getting involved in the situation in Iraq and Syria as that it will not go far enough in stopping Islamic militants (41% each). However, that represents a change of opinion since mid-August, when by 51% to 32%, more said their bigger concern was that the U.S. would get too involved in the situation in Iraq.

Despite bipartisan support for Obama's military campaign against ISIS, Republicans and Democrats differ in their concerns for U.S. military action: Most Republicans worry it will not go far enough (66%); by contrast, 54% of Democrats say their bigger concern is that it will go too far.

Majorities in Both Parties Back Obama's Plan for Military Action

Obama's plan for military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria (%) ...

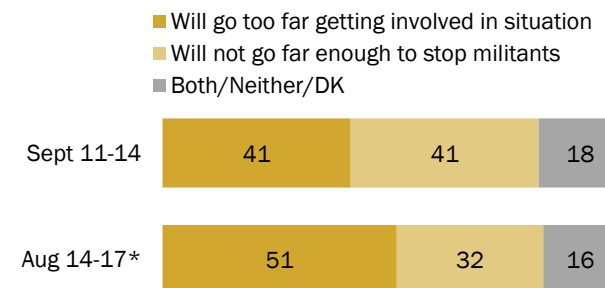


Survey conducted Sept. 11-14, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Greater Concern over U.S. Military Action in Iraq and Syria ...



Survey conducted Sept. 11-14, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

* Aug. 14-17 survey asked about "military action in Iraq."

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The survey finds that relatively few Americans believe that the military campaign against Islamic militants will make the United States safer from a terrorist attack. Just 18% think it will decrease the chances of a terrorist attack in this country, while nearly twice as many (34%) say it will increase the chances of an attack; 41% say it won't make much difference.

Age, Gender Differences in Views of Obama's ISIS Plan

While support for military action in Iraq and Syria crosses party lines, there are significant difference in opinion across demographic groups.

Men approve of the military campaign against Islamic militants by a wide 62%-25% margin. By contrast, women are much more closely divided: 44% approve of the plan, while 33% disapprove.

Across age groups, young people offer the least support for military action. Just 43% of those under 30 approve of Obama's plan, while 37% disapprove. Among older age groups, half or more approve of the plan, including 61% of those 65 and older.

Those with a college degree (60%) are more likely to approve of the military campaign in Iraq and Syria than are those with no more than a high school diploma (48%).

Young People, Women Less Supportive of U.S. Military Action in Iraq and Syria

Obama's plan for military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria ...

| | Approve % | Disapprove % | DK % |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| Total | 53 | 29 | 19=100 |
| Men | 62 | 25 | 14=100 |
| Women | 44 | 33 | 24=100 |
| 18-29 | 43 | 37 | 20=100 |
| 30-49 | 52 | 30 | 18=100 |
| 50-64 | 58 | 26 | 17=100 |
| 65+ | 61 | 18 | 21=100 |
| College grad+ | 60 | 25 | 15=100 |
| Some college | 53 | 26 | 21=100 |
| H.S. or less | 48 | 33 | 19=100 |
| Republican | 64 | 27 | 9=100 |
| Conservative | 61 | 28 | 11=100 |
| Independent | 47 | 33 | 20=100 |
| Democrat | 60 | 24 | 16=100 |
| Liberal | 63 | 27 | 11=100 |

Survey conducted Sept. 11-14, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Concerns about U.S. Involvement

While Democrats generally support Obama's plan for a military campaign against ISIS, they continue to express concern that the U.S. will become too deeply involved in Iraq and Syria.

Twice as many Democrats say their greater concern is that the U.S. will go too far in getting involved in this situation as not go far enough in stopping Islamic militants (54% vs. 27%). That is changed modestly from mid-August, when 62% of Democrats expressed similar concern ([the question in that survey](#) asked only about U.S. military action in Iraq).

Republicans continue to say their greater concern is that the U.S. will not go far enough in stopping Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria (66% now, 57% in mid-August).

Independents have become less concerned about U.S. involvement in the situation going too far. In mid-August, 56% of independents said their greater concern was the U.S. getting too involved in the situation compared with 28% who were more concerned the U.S. would not go far enough to stop militants. In the current survey, about as many say they are more concerned the U.S. will not go far enough to stop the militants (40%) as go too far getting involved in the situation (42%).

The gender and age differences in views of Obama's plan are evident in concerns over U.S. military action: more women (46%) than men (35%) say their greater concern is that the U.S. will go too far in getting involved in the situation in Iraq and Syria. Young people are more likely than older adults to express concern over getting too involved in this situation.

More Express Concern over 'Not Going Far Enough' than in Mid-August

What concerns you more about U.S. military action?

| | Aug* 14-17 | | Sept 11-14 | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| | Go too far % | Not go far enough % | Go too far % | Not go far enough % |
| Total | 51 | 32 | 41 | 41 |
| Men | 46 | 38 | 37 | 46 |
| Women | 56 | 27 | 46 | 35 |
| 18-29 | 68 | 21 | 56 | 30 |
| 30-49 | 52 | 32 | 40 | 44 |
| 50-64 | 46 | 38 | 40 | 42 |
| 65+ | 41 | 39 | 26 | 49 |
| Republican | 34 | 57 | 27 | 66 |
| Conservative | 23 | 68 | 21 | 71 |
| Independent | 56 | 28 | 42 | 40 |
| Democrat | 62 | 25 | 54 | 27 |
| Liberal | 66 | 23 | 58 | 22 |

Survey conducted Sept. 11-14, 2014.

* Aug. 14-17 survey asked about "military action in Iraq."

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Few Say Campaign Will ‘Decrease’ Chances of Terror Attack in U.S.

The U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria is not seen as reducing the chances of a terrorist attack in the U.S. In fact, somewhat more say the campaign against the militants will increase the chances of a terrorist attack in the U.S. (34%) than decrease them (18%); a 41%-plurality says U.S. military actions in Iraq and Syria won't make much difference on the chances of a terrorist attack in the U.S.

Nearly four-in-ten Democrats (38%) say the chances of a terrorist attack in the U.S. will increase as a result of the military campaign in Iraq and Syria, compared with 15% who say they will decrease. Among Republicans, roughly as many think the chances of a terrorist attack in the U.S. will increase (28%) as decrease (23%).

Impact of Military Action on Terrorism Risk in the U.S.

U.S. military campaign in Iraq and Syria will ___ chances of terrorist attack in U.S. ...

| | Increase | Decrease | Not make much difference | DK |
|---------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|--------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Total | 34 | 18 | 41 | 7=100 |
| Men | 28 | 22 | 43 | 6=100 |
| Women | 39 | 14 | 39 | 8=100 |
| 18-29 | 38 | 15 | 40 | 7=100 |
| 30-49 | 36 | 17 | 42 | 6=100 |
| 50-64 | 32 | 21 | 41 | 5=100 |
| 65+ | 27 | 20 | 44 | 10=100 |
| College grad+ | 32 | 19 | 44 | 5=100 |
| Some college | 36 | 19 | 39 | 6=100 |
| H.S. or less | 33 | 17 | 41 | 9=100 |
| Republican | 28 | 23 | 40 | 8=100 |
| Conservative | 24 | 24 | 42 | 10=100 |
| Independent | 34 | 19 | 42 | 5=100 |
| Democrat | 38 | 15 | 42 | 5=100 |
| Liberal | 35 | 11 | 45 | 9=100 |

Survey conducted Sept. 11-14, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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The Week's News

The public most closely followed news about ISIS last week, as 37% say they tracked reports “very closely.” By comparison, 23% closely followed news in mid-August about airstrikes in Iraq. Last week, Republicans were 15 points more likely than Democrats to closely follow ISIS news (52% vs. 37%).

Two other stories received modest attention from the public. Nearly one-in-four (23%) closely followed the situation involving Russia and Ukraine, similar to early August (24%). And 21% paid close attention to news about the NFL’s suspension of Ray Rice after a video showed him punching his then-fiancée.

Just 14% are closely following the midterm congressional elections, which will take place in seven weeks. This is less interest than at a similar point in 2010 (22%), but similar to 2006 (16%) and 2002 (17%). Today, Republicans are twice as likely as Democrats (23% vs. 11%) to be closely following news about the midterms.

Most Interest in ISIS News; Reps Following Midterms Closer than Dems

% following each story very closely...

| | Total % | Rep % | Dem % | Ind % | R-D diff |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Reports about ISIS | 37 | 52 | 37 | 34 | +15 |
| Russia-Ukraine situation | 23 | 27 | 24 | 22 | +3 |
| Ray Rice suspension | 21 | 25 | 28 | 16 | -3 |
| Congressional elections | 14 | 23 | 11 | 13 | +12 |

Survey conducted Sept. 11-14, 2014.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted September 11-14, 2014 among a national sample of 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (502 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 282 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source, MKTG and SSI under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Unweighted sample size | Plus or minus ... |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total sample | 1,003 | 3.6 percentage points |
| Republican | 220 | 7.8 percentage points |
| Democrat | 293 | 6.7 percentage points |
| Independent | 362 | 6.1 percentage points |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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September 11-14, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Reports about the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS | | | | | |
| September 11-14, 2014 | 37 | 30 | 16 | 17 | * |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| August 14-17, 2014: <i>U.S. airstrikes against an Islamic militant group in Iraq</i> | 23 | 29 | 21 | 26 | 1 |
| June 26-29, 2014: Growing violence and political instability in Iraq | 25 | 29 | 18 | 27 | 1 |
| December 15-18, 2011: The complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq | 34 | 32 | 18 | 14 | 2 |
| October 21-23, 2011: President Obama announcing a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of 2011 | 30 | 30 | 19 | 20 | 1 |
| December 16-19, 2010: The current situation and events in Iraq | 19 | 30 | 27 | 24 | * |
| September 2-6, 2010: The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq | 36 | 37 | 15 | 11 | * |
| August 26-29, 2010: The current situation and events in Iraq | 25 | 36 | 24 | 15 | 1 |
| August 19-22, 2010: The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq | 31 | 33 | 19 | 17 | 1 |
| August 5-8, 2010: The current situation and events in Iraq | 23 | 35 | 22 | 18 | 1 |
| May 13-16, 2010 | 31 | 34 | 21 | 13 | 2 |
| March 12-15, 2010 | 22 | 36 | 28 | 14 | * |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 26 | 34 | 20 | 20 | * |
| January 29-February 1, 2010 | 23 | 33 | 27 | 17 | * |
| January 15-18, 2010 | 20 | 35 | 28 | 17 | * |
| October 16-19, 2009 | 23 | 30 | 24 | 23 | * |
| September 11-14, 2009 | 21 | 33 | 30 | 16 | * |
| August 21-24, 2009 | 25 | 35 | 22 | 18 | 1 |
| August 14-17, 2009 | 19 | 38 | 23 | 18 | * |
| July 2-5, 2009: U.S. troops withdrawing from Iraqi cities | 25 | 34 | 20 | 21 | 0 |
| April 24-27, 2009: The current situation and events in Iraq | 21 | 35 | 25 | 19 | * |
| March 20-23, 2009 | 25 | 37 | 21 | 17 | * |
| February 27-March 2, 2009: Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010 | 40 | 37 | 13 | 9 | 1 |
| December 12-15, 2008: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i> | 24 | 35 | 25 | 16 | * |
| November 21-24, 2008 | 32 | 31 | 24 | 13 | 0 |
| November 14-17, 2008 | 24 | 33 | 27 | 16 | * |
| October 31-November 3, 2008 | 30 | 35 | 22 | 12 | 1 |
| October 24-27, 2008 | 29 | 35 | 25 | 11 | * |
| October 10-13, 2008 | 23 | 34 | 30 | 13 | * |
| October 3-6, 2008 | 29 | 33 | 28 | 10 | * |
| September 5-8, 2008 | 24 | 37 | 26 | 13 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| August 29-31, 2008 | 22 | 32 | 29 | 16 | 1 |
| August 22-25, 2008 | 26 | 31 | 27 | 15 | 1 |
| August 1-4, 2008 | 27 | 40 | 23 | 10 | * |
| July 25-28, 2008 | 28 | 33 | 22 | 17 | * |
| July 18-21, 2008 | 33 | 35 | 20 | 12 | * |
| July 11-14, 2008 | 24 | 35 | 24 | 16 | 1 |
| July 3-7, 2008 | 25 | 35 | 25 | 15 | * |
| June 20-23, 2008 | 25 | 36 | 24 | 15 | * |
| May 9-12, 2008 | 29 | 35 | 21 | 14 | 1 |
| May 2-5, 2008 | 26 | 35 | 25 | 13 | 1 |
| April 25-28, 2008 | 29 | 35 | 23 | 12 | 1 |
| April 18-21, 2008 | 29 | 39 | 20 | 11 | 1 |
| April 11-14, 2008 | 25 | 39 | 20 | 15 | 1 |
| April 4-7, 2008 | 25 | 37 | 23 | 15 | * |
| March 28-31, 2008 | 29 | 40 | 19 | 11 | 1 |
| March 20-24, 2008 | 30 | 38 | 19 | 13 | * |
| March 14-17, 2008 | 29 | 38 | 23 | 10 | * |
| March 7-10, 2008 | 28 | 39 | 18 | 15 | * |
| February 29-March 3, 2008 | 28 | 40 | 19 | 13 | * |
| February 8-11, 2008 | 24 | 35 | 25 | 16 | * |
| February 1-4, 2008 | 28 | 39 | 22 | 11 | * |
| January 25-28, 2008 | 23 | 35 | 26 | 16 | * |
| January 18-21, 2008 | 31 | 33 | 20 | 15 | 1 |
| January 11-14, 2008 | 25 | 38 | 21 | 16 | * |
| January 4-7, 2008 | 27 | 38 | 20 | 15 | * |
| December 14-17, 2007 | 26 | 32 | 24 | 18 | * |
| December 7-10, 2007 | 28 | 37 | 21 | 14 | * |
| November 23-26, 2007 | 25 | 37 | 21 | 16 | 1 |
| November 16-19, 2007 | 31 | 37 | 19 | 12 | 1 |
| November 9-12, 2007 | 29 | 38 | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| November 2-5, 2007 | 31 | 35 | 18 | 15 | 1 |
| October 26-29, 2007 | 28 | 37 | 21 | 13 | 1 |
| October 19-22, 2007 | 28 | 37 | 20 | 15 | * |
| October 12-15, 2007 | 26 | 36 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| October 5-8, 2007 | 29 | 33 | 22 | 16 | * |
| September 28 - October 1, 2007 | 30 | 41 | 18 | 11 | * |
| September 21-24, 2007 | 32 | 38 | 17 | 13 | * |
| September 14-17, 2007 | 31 | 36 | 18 | 15 | 0 |
| September 7-10, 2007 | 32 | 34 | 20 | 14 | * |
| August 30 - September 2, 2007 | 31 | 34 | 18 | 16 | 1 |
| August 24-27, 2007 | 34 | 36 | 18 | 12 | * |
| August 17-20, 2007 | 33 | 34 | 18 | 15 | * |
| August 10-13, 2007 | 36 | 37 | 14 | 13 | * |
| August 3-6, 2007 | 29 | 40 | 19 | 12 | * |
| July 27-30, 2007 | 28 | 36 | 19 | 16 | 1 |
| July 20-23, 2007 | 28 | 34 | 21 | 16 | 1 |
| July 13-16, 2007 | 25 | 41 | 17 | 16 | 1 |
| July 6-9, 2007 | 36 | 34 | 18 | 12 | * |
| June 29-July 2, 2007 | 32 | 35 | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| June 22-25, 2007 | 30 | 36 | 18 | 15 | 1 |
| June 15-18, 2007 | 30 | 37 | 20 | 13 | * |
| June 8-11, 2007 | 32 | 38 | 15 | 14 | 1 |
| June 1-4, 2007 | 30 | 36 | 20 | 13 | 1 |
| May 24-27, 2007 | 33 | 36 | 18 | 12 | 1 |
| May 18-21, 2007 | 36 | 34 | 15 | 14 | 1 |
| May 11-14, 2007 | 30 | 34 | 18 | 17 | 1 |
| May 4-7, 2007 | 38 | 37 | 15 | 10 | * |
| April 27-30, 2007 | 27 | 35 | 21 | 16 | 1 |
| April 20-23, 2007 | 28 | 35 | 22 | 15 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 12-16, 2007 | 34 | 33 | 20 | 13 | * |
| April 5-9, 2007 | 33 | 39 | 16 | 11 | 1 |
| March 30-April 2, 2007 | 34 | 37 | 16 | 13 | * |
| March 23-March 26, 2007: <i>News about the current situation in Iraq</i> | 31 | 38 | 18 | 12 | 1 |
| March 16-19, 2007 | 34 | 34 | 17 | 15 | * |
| March 9-12, 2007 | 34 | 37 | 16 | 13 | * |
| March 2-5, 2007 | 37 | 37 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| February 23-26, 2007 | 36 | 36 | 15 | 13 | * |
| February 16-19, 2007 | 30 | 36 | 19 | 14 | 1 |
| February 9-12, 2007 | 37 | 34 | 18 | 11 | * |
| February 2-5, 2007 | 38 | 38 | 17 | 7 | * |
| January 26-29, 2007 | 36 | 38 | 15 | 11 | * |
| January 19-22, 2007 | 37 | 34 | 18 | 10 | 1 |
| January 12-15, 2007 | 38 | 36 | 17 | 8 | 1 |
| January, 2007 | 46 | 40 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| January 5-8, 2007 | 40 | 32 | 16 | 12 | 0 |
| December, 2006 | 42 | 39 | 12 | 7 | * |
| November 30-December 3, 2006 | 40 | 36 | 13 | 11 | * |
| Mid-November, 2006 | 44 | 38 | 12 | 6 | * |
| September, 2006 | 33 | 43 | 14 | 8 | 2 |
| August, 2006 | 41 | 39 | 12 | 7 | 1 |
| June, 2006 | 37 | 43 | 13 | 6 | 1 |
| May, 2006 | 42 | 35 | 15 | 7 | 1 |
| April, 2006 | 43 | 36 | 13 | 7 | 1 |
| March, 2006 | 43 | 38 | 12 | 6 | 1 |
| February, 2006 | 39 | 42 | 12 | 6 | 1 |
| January, 2006 | 40 | 40 | 12 | 7 | 1 |
| December, 2005 | 45 | 38 | 11 | 5 | 1 |
| Early November, 2005 | 41 | 40 | 13 | 6 | * |
| Early October, 2005 | 43 | 36 | 15 | 6 | * |
| Early September, 2005 | 32 | 40 | 20 | 7 | 1 |
| July, 2005 | 43 | 37 | 13 | 6 | 1 |
| Mid-May, 2005 | 42 | 42 | 11 | 5 | * |
| Mid-March, 2005 | 40 | 39 | 14 | 5 | 2 |
| February, 2005 | 38 | 45 | 13 | 4 | * |
| January, 2005 | 48 | 37 | 11 | 4 | * |
| December, 2004 | 34 | 44 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 42 | 38 | 11 | 8 | 1 |
| Early September, 2004 | 47 | 37 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 39 | 42 | 12 | 6 | 1 |
| July, 2004 | 43 | 40 | 11 | 6 | * |
| June, 2004 | 39 | 42 | 12 | 6 | 1 |
| April, 2004 | 54 | 33 | 8 | 5 | * |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 47 | 36 | 12 | 4 | 1 |
| Early February, 2004 | 47 | 38 | 10 | 4 | 1 |
| Mid-January, 2004 | 48 | 39 | 9 | 4 | * |
| December, 2003 | 44 | 38 | 11 | 6 | 1 |
| November, 2003 | 52 | 33 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| September, 2003 | 50 | 33 | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| Mid-August, 2003 | 45 | 39 | 10 | 5 | 1 |
| Early July, 2003 | 37 | 41 | 13 | 8 | 1 |
| June, 2003 | 46 | 35 | 13 | 6 | * |
| May, 2003 | 63 | 29 | 6 | 2 | * |
| April 11-16, 2003: <i>News about the war in Iraq</i> | 47 | 40 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| April 2-7, 2003 | 54 | 34 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| March 20-24, 2003 | 57 | 33 | 7 | 2 | 1 |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 13-16, 2003: <i>Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq</i> | 62 | 27 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| February, 2003 | 62 | 25 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| January, 2003 | 55 | 29 | 10 | 4 | 2 |
| December, 2002 | 51 | 32 | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| Late October, 2002 | 53 | 33 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| Early October, 2002 | 60 | 28 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Early September, 2002: <i>Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq</i> | 48 | 29 | 15 | 6 | 2 |
| b. The situation involving Russia and Ukraine | | | | | |
| September 11-14, 2014 | 23 | 30 | 20 | 26 | 1 |
| July 31-August 3, 2014 | 24 | 31 | 20 | 23 | 2 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| July 24-27, 2014: <i>The investigation into the downing of a Malaysia Airlines plane in Ukraine</i> | 33 | 35 | 17 | 14 | 1 |
| April 3-6, 2014: <i>The situation involving Russia and Ukraine</i> | 26 | 31 | 18 | 23 | 2 |
| March 20-23, 2014: <i>Russia taking control of Ukraine's Crimea region</i> | 30 | 33 | 14 | 21 | 1 |
| March 6-9, 2014: <i>Russia sending troops into Ukraine's Crimea region in response to a new Ukrainian government</i> | 28 | 31 | 17 | 23 | 1 |
| February 27-March 2, 2014: <i>Political violence and a new government in Ukraine</i> | 19 | 28 | 21 | 31 | 1 |
| August 29-31, 2008: <i>The ongoing hostilities between Russia and the Republic of Georgia</i> | 22 | 31 | 26 | 20 | 1 |
| August 22-25, 2008 | 27 | 39 | 22 | 12 | * |
| August 15-18, 2008 | 35 | 35 | 15 | 15 | * |
| August 8-11, 2008: <i>Russia sending troops into the Republic of Georgia</i> | 17 | 22 | 23 | 37 | 1 |
| c. News about this year's congressional elections | | | | | |
| September 11-14, 2014 | 14 | 23 | 26 | 36 | 1 |
| July 24-27, 2014 | 14 | 19 | 29 | 38 | * |
| June 26-29, 2014 | 16 | 23 | 20 | 41 | 1 |
| June 5-8, 2014 | 14 | 23 | 23 | 38 | 1 |
| May 15-18, 2014 | 13 | 24 | 25 | 38 | 1 |
| March 20-23, 2014 | 15 | 22 | 22 | 39 | 1 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| October 28-November 1, 2010 | 29 | 30 | 17 | 23 | 1 |
| October 27-30, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i> | 27 | 35 | 17 | 20 | 1 |
| October 21-24, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i> | 30 | 28 | 18 | 23 | 1 |
| October 13-18, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i> | 24 | 34 | 22 | 19 | 1 |
| October 14-17, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i> | 33 | 25 | 19 | 23 | * |
| October 7-10, 2010 | 23 | 27 | 19 | 30 | 1 |
| September 30-October 3, 2010 | 25 | 34 | 19 | 21 | 1 |
| September 23-26, 2010 | 25 | 33 | 23 | 18 | 1 |
| September 16-19, 2010 | 23 | 26 | 23 | 27 | 1 |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| September 9-12, 2010 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 34 | 1 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 26 | 1 |
| August 26-29, 2010 | 20 | 27 | 23 | 28 | 1 |
| August 19-22, 2010 | 19 | 23 | 24 | 33 | 1 |
| August 12-15, 2010 | 20 | 22 | 19 | 38 | 1 |
| July 29-August 1, 2010 | 29 | 34 | 22 | 14 | * |
| July 15-18, 2010 | 17 | 23 | 26 | 33 | 1 |
| June 16-20, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i> | 15 | 33 | 31 | 20 | * |
| June 10-13, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i> | 20 | 29 | 24 | 27 | 1 |
| Early October, 2006 | 21 | 38 | 25 | 15 | 1 |
| Early September, 2006 | 16 | 32 | 28 | 23 | 1 |
| August, 2006 | 20 | 29 | 28 | 22 | 1 |
| June, 2006 | 18 | 30 | 29 | 21 | 2 |
| May, 2006 | 18 | 28 | 30 | 23 | 1 |
| Early November, 2002 (RVs) | 27 | 46 | 18 | 9 | * |
| Late October, 2002 (RVs) | 28 | 34 | 24 | 13 | 1 |
| Early October, 2002 (RVs) | 21 | 46 | 22 | 10 | 1 |
| Early September, 2002 | 17 | 29 | 29 | 24 | 1 |
| Late October, 1998 (RVs) | 26 | 45 | 20 | 9 | * |
| Early October, 1998 (RVs) | 21 | 43 | 24 | 11 | 1 |
| Early September, 1998 | 17 | 32 | 28 | 23 | * |
| Early August, 1998 | 13 | 30 | 28 | 23 | 1 |
| June, 1998 | 9 | 27 | 33 | 30 | 1 |
| April, 1998 ¹ | 16 | 33 | 24 | 27 | * |
| November, 1994 | 18 | 42 | 25 | 15 | * |
| Late October, 1994 | 14 | 38 | 31 | 16 | 1 |
| Early October, 1994 | 23 | 34 | 23 | 19 | 1 |
| September, 1994 | 19 | 34 | 29 | 18 | * |
| November, 1990 | 38 | 34 | 17 | 11 | * |
| October, 1990 | 18 | 32 | 28 | 22 | * |
| d. News about the NFL suspending football player Ray Rice for punching his fiancée September 11-14, 2014 | 21 | 29 | 25 | 26 | * |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| May 15-18, 2014: <i>Racially insensitive comments made by Los Angeles Clippers basketball owner Donald Sterling</i> | 21 | 28 | 24 | 26 | 1 |
| August 24-27, 2007: <i>NFL quarterback Michael Vick agreeing to plead guilty to federal dog fighting charges</i> | 26 | 30 | 21 | 22 | 1 |
| July 27-30, 2007: <i>Allegations that NFL quarterback Michael Vick was involved with illegal dog fighting.</i> | 21 | 27 | 22 | 29 | 1 |
| August, 2003: <i>Basketball star Kobe Bryant being accused of sexual assault</i> | 17 | 30 | 28 | 24 | 1 |
| February, 1992: <i>Mike Tyson's rape trial</i> | 32 | 37 | 21 | 10 | * |

¹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."
In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 As you may know, Barack Obama has announced a plan for a military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, involving U.S. airstrikes and U.S. military training for opposition groups. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of this plan?

Sep 11-14

2014

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 53 | Approve |
| 29 | Disapprove |
| 19 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| August 14-17, 2014: U.S. airstrikes against militants in Iraq in response to violence against civilians (U) | 54 | 31 | 15 |
| June, 1999 ² : NATO forces, including the U.S., conducting air strikes against the Serbs in Kosovo | 62 | 32 | 6 |
| May, 1999 | 53 | 38 | 9 |
| April, 1999 | 62 | 29 | 9 |
| March, 1999 | 60 | 29 | 11 |
| March, 1999: U.S. and British air strikes against Iraq | 68 | 25 | 7 |
| December, 1998: U.S. military strikes against Iraq | 75 | 20 | 5 |
| August, 1998: U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan | 79 | 11 | 10 |

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 What concerns you more about the U.S. military action in Iraq and Syria? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

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| | |
|----|--|
| 41 | That the U.S. will go too far in getting involved in the situation |
| 41 | That the U.S. will not go far enough in stopping the Islamic militants |
| 3 | Both (VOL.) |
| 6 | Neither (VOL.) |
| 9 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

| | <u>Will go too far</u> | <u>Will not go far enough</u> | (VOL.) <u>Both</u> | (VOL.) <u>Neither</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| August 14-17, 2014: U.S. military action in Iraq (U) | 51 | 32 | 2 | 5 | 9 |

²

In June, 1999, the first night of the survey asked "Do you approve or disapprove" of the airstrikes and on the remaining nights, the survey asked "Did you approve or disapprove" of the airstrikes.

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Do you think the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria will
[RANDOMIZE: increase/decrease] the chances of terrorist attacks in the U.S., **[RANDOMIZE: decrease/increase]** the chances of terrorist attacks in the U.S., or not make much difference?

Sep 11-14

2014

| | |
|----|---|
| 34 | Increase chances of terrorist attacks in U.S. |
| 18 | Decrease chances of terrorist attacks in U.S. |
| 41 | Not make much difference |
| 7 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

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 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | No preference | Other party | <u>DK/Ref</u> | <u>Rep</u> | <u>Dem</u> |
| September 11-14, 2014 | 20 | 29 | 37 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 15 |

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls