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# Most View the CDC Favorably; VA's Image Slips

## *Ratings of Government Agencies*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# Most View the CDC Favorably; VA's Image Slips

## *Ratings of Government Agencies*

The public continues to express positive views of many agencies of the federal government, even though overall trust in government is near historic lows. Large majorities express favorable views of such government agencies as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NASA and the Defense Department.

In fact, favorable opinions surpass unfavorable views for seven of eight government agencies tested – the IRS is the lone exception. In a survey last February, however, just 24% said they could trust the government in Washington always or most of time. (See this [interactive](#) for more on trust in government.)

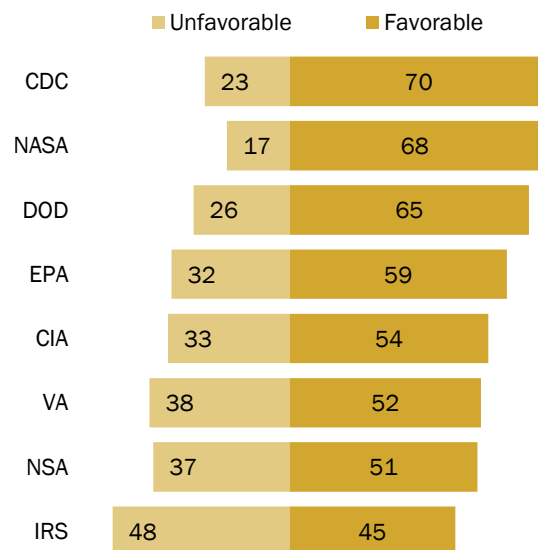
The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 7-11 among 1,504 adults, finds that 70% have a favorable view of the CDC, which came under criticism last fall for its handling of the outbreak of the Ebola virus. Nearly as many (68%) have a favorable view of NASA, and 65% hold a favorable view of the Department of Defense.

While overall favorable ratings for most of the agencies tested have changed little over time, there has been a sharp decline in positive views of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Currently, 52% have a favorable view of the VA, down 16 points since October 2013. The agency has been widely faulted for delays in health care for veterans; the scandal led to the ouster last year of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki.

As tax season begins, the public expresses mixed views of the Internal Revenue Service: 45% have a favorable opinion of the tax agency while 48% have an unfavorable view. Opinions of the IRS are little changed from October 2013.

### High Favorable Ratings for CDC, NASA, DOD; Mixed Ratings for IRS

% rating each ...



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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## Partisan Views of Gov't Agencies

The survey finds wide partisan divides in views of many government agencies. Republicans hold less favorable views than Democrats of five of the eight federal agencies included in the survey. The CIA is the only agency included that Republicans view more favorably than Democrats.

Fewer than half as many Republicans (36%) as Democrats (80%) have a favorable view of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Republicans also offer less favorable ratings than Democrats of the IRS (32 points), CDC (20 points), VA (11 points) and NSA (11 points). By contrast, Democrats are 18 points less likely than Republicans to view the CIA favorably (46% vs. 64%).

Partisan differences have increased in opinions about both the EPA and the CIA. In February 2014, Republicans had mixed views of the EPA: Nearly as many had a favorable view of the agency (45%) as an unfavorable opinion (46%). Today, 51% of Republicans have an unfavorable impression of the EPA, while just 36% view it favorably. Democrats' views of the EPA have become somewhat more positive over the past year (80% currently, 70% in February 2014).

### Republicans View Several Agencies Less Favorably Than Do Democrats

*Favorable views of each agency ...*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D Diff
	%	%	%	%	
EPA	59	36	80	57	-44
IRS	45	30	62	40	-32
CDC	70	57	77	70	-20
VA	52	43	54	56	-11
NSA	51	47	58	49	-11
NASA	68	63	68	70	-5
DOD	65	66	70	62	-4
CIA	54	64	46	56	+18

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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### Republicans' Views of the EPA Turn More Negative

*Views of the EPA ...*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
<b>Jan 2015</b>				
Favorable	59	36	80	57
Unfavorable	32	51	11	36
Other/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Feb 2014</b>				
Favorable	57	45	70	56
Unfavorable	33	46	21	34
Other/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Democrats' views of the CIA are more negative today than they were five years ago. In March 2010, there were only modest differences in opinions about the CIA among Democrats (55% favorable) and Republicans (61% favorable).

But today, 46% of Democrats view the CIA favorably, while 40% have an unfavorable impression. More Democrats offer an opinion of the agency today than in 2010; unfavorable views have risen 24 points since then (from 16% to 40%), while favorable views have shown less change. Opinions of the CIA among Republicans are little changed since 2010.

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## Democrats Have Increasingly Unfavorable Views of the CIA

*Views of the CIA ...*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
<b>Jan 2015</b>	%	%	%	%
Favorable	54	64	46	56
Unfavorable	33	29	40	31
Other/DK	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Mar 2010</b>				
Favorable	52	61	55	49
Unfavorable	21	20	16	23
Other/DK	<u>27</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Lower Favorable Ratings for the VA

Over the course of the past year, views of the Department of Veterans Affairs have declined across the board. In the current survey, 52% express a favorable view of the VA, compared with 38% who hold an unfavorable view. In October 2013, more than twice as many held a favorable (68%) as unfavorable (25%) view of the VA.

Favorable ratings of the VA are down 23 points among Republicans (66% to 43%) and 20 points among Democrats (74% to 54%) since October 2013.

College graduates view the VA much less favorably than they did in October 2013. Favorable ratings of the VA are down 29 points among college graduates from 75% to 46%. The declines have been more modest among those with some college experience (eight points) and those with no more than a high school diploma (15 points).

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### Favorable Views of VA Fall Sharply

*Favorable views of the VA ...*

	<b>Oct 2013</b>	<b>Jan 2015</b>	<b>Change</b>
	%	%	
Total	68	52	-16
Male	68	52	-16
Female	68	52	-16
18-29	69	61	-8
30-49	70	53	-17
50-64	67	44	-23
65+	67	50	-17
College grad+	75	46	-29
Some college	63	55	-8
HS or less	68	53	-15
Republican	66	43	-23
Democrat	74	54	-20
Independent	65	56	-9

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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## Stark Partisan Differences in Opinions of the IRS

The IRS is the lowest rated federal agency included in the survey. Overall, 45% hold a favorable view of the IRS, while about as many (48%) say they have an unfavorable view of the agency. Attitudes toward the IRS have changed little over the past several years.

Partisan differences in views of the IRS are stark. Republicans, by about two-to-one (64% to 30%) have an unfavorable opinion of the IRS. Democrats, by about the same margin (62% to 32%) view it favorably. Among independents, 40% have a favorable view of the IRS, while 55% have an unfavorable impression.

Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party hold especially negative views of the IRS. Just 15% of Tea Party Republicans have a favorable view of the IRS compared with 82% who have an unfavorable view. Among Republicans who do not agree with the Tea Party, 37% view the IRS favorably, while 58% view it unfavorably.

There are only modest differences in views of the IRS across income levels. Favorable ratings of the IRS are similar among those in households earning \$75,000 a year or more (45%), \$30,000-\$75,000 (43%) and less than \$30,000 a year (49%).

### Just 15% of Tea Party Republicans Have a Favorable Impression of the IRS

*Views of the IRS ...*

	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	Other/ DK %
Total	45	48	6=100
Men	38	56	6=100
Women	52	41	7=100
18-29	53	40	7=100
30-49	52	42	7=100
50-64	35	61	5=100
65+	39	53	8=100
College grad+	48	47	5=100
Some college	45	50	6=100
HS or less	44	49	8=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000 or more	45	51	4=100
\$30,000-\$75,000	43	53	4=100
Less than \$30,000	49	43	7=100
Republican	30	64	6=100
Democrat	62	32	6=100
Independent	40	55	5=100
<i>Among Rep/ Rep leaners</i>			
Tea Party	15	82	3=100
Non-Tea Party	37	58	5=100

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Views of the NSA Little Changed from 2013

Favorability ratings for the National Security Agency (NSA) have changed little since the [fall of 2013](#), shortly after former NSA analyst Edward Snowden's revelations of the agency's data-mining activities. About half (51%) view the NSA favorably, compared with 37% who have an unfavorable view.

Young people are more likely than older Americans to view the intelligence agency positively. About six-in-ten (61%) of those under 30 view the NSA favorably, compared with 40% of those 65 and older.

Adults with a post-graduate degree have mixed views of the NSA (45% favorable vs. 43% unfavorable). Among those with less education, favorable opinions of the NSA outnumber unfavorable views.

### NSA Viewed More Favorably By Those Under 30 Than Adults 65 and Older

*Views of the NSA ...*

	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	Other/ DK %
Total	51	37	11=100
Men	49	43	8=100
Women	53	32	15=100
18-29	61	30	9=100
30-49	55	32	12=100
50-64	45	45	10=100
65+	40	45	15=100
Post-grad	45	43	12=100
College grad	53	39	8=100
Some college	53	37	11=100
HS or less	51	36	13=100
Republican	47	42	11=100
Democrat	58	31	11=100
Independent	49	42	9=100

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 7-11, 2015 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (528 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 976 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 563 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source 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 nativity and region to parameters from the 2013 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 (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	758	4.1 percentage points
Form 2	746	4.1 percentage points
Republican (F1/F2)	336 (165/171)	6.1 (8.8/8.6) percentage points
Democrat (F1/F2)	458 (230/228)	5.3 (7.4/7.4) percentage points
Independent (F1/F2)	647 (326/321)	4.4 (6.2/6.3) 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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JANUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 7-11, 2015  
N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-7, 10, 12A-12B PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 8-9, 11****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.12 Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THROUGH b. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS c. THROUGH j.; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [ITEM] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

		----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/ Ref
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=758]:</b>									
c.F1	The Defense Department								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	65	20	44	26	8	18	1	9
	Oct 9-13, 2013	72	21	50	23	9	14	1	5
	Mar 18-21, 2010	67	21	46	21	8	13	*	12
	Late October, 2005	56	14	42	32	13	19	1	11
	October, 1997	76	18	58	19	4	15	*	5
	Roper, April 1987	57	16	41	36	14	22	--	7
	Roper, April 1986	66	22	44	29	10	19	--	5
	Roper, April 1985	54	15	39	37	15	22	--	9
	Roper, April 1984	54	15	39	39	15	24	--	7
	Roper, April 1983	54	14	40	38	15	23	--	8
d.F1	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	70	25	44	23	10	13	2	5
	Oct 9-13, 2013	75	27	47	14	5	8	2	9
	Mar 18-21, 2010	67	15	52	16	5	10	2	15
	February, 1998	79	20	59	11	2	9	1	9
e.F1	The National Security Agency, the NSA								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	51	14	37	37	15	22	3	8
	Oct 9-13, 2013	54	12	42	35	13	22	2	8
f.F1	The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	45	10	35	48	24	25	*	6
	Oct 9-13, 2013	44	9	35	51	23	28	*	5
	Mar 18-21, 2010	47	6	41	40	17	23	10	13
	October, 1997	38	5	33	60	25	35	*	2
	Roper, August 1987	49	10	39	46	19	27	--	5
	Roper, August 1986	51	10	41	45	19	26	--	4
	Roper, August 1985	48	8	40	47	19	28	--	5
	Roper, August 1984	60	13	47	34	11	23	--	6
	Roper, August 1983	50	12	38	44	16	28	--	6

## Q.12 CONTINUED...

		----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=746]:</b>									
g.F2	The Veterans Administration, the VA								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	52	21	31	38	15	24	1	9
	Oct 9-13, 2013	68	24	44	25	7	18	*	7
	Mar 18-21, 2010	57	19	38	22	5	17	2	20
	February, 1998	59	15	44	26	7	19	1	14
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	75	30	45	15	4	11	--	9
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	68	26	42	22	6	16	--	10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	77	37	40	15	4	11	--	9
h.F2	The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	59	18	40	32	15	18	1	8
	Feb 12-Feb 26, 2014	57	14	43	33	14	19	2	8
	Oct 9-13, 2013	62	15	47	30	12	19	2	6
	Mar 18-21, 2010	57	11	46	32	12	20	1	10
	October, 1997	69	14	55	27	7	20	1	3
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	62	19	43	30	7	23	--	8
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	59	18	41	31	7	24	--	10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	58	19	39	31	11	20	--	11
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	68	27	41	26	9	17	--	6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1983	56	21	35	34	12	22	--	10
i.F2	The National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NASA								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	68	24	43	17	6	11	1	15
	Oct 9-13, 2013	73	22	51	15	3	12	*	12
	Mar 18-21, 2010	61	19	41	17	5	12	1	21
	February, 1998	73	23	50	20	5	15	1	6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	66	23	43	24	5	19	--	10
	<i>Roper</i> , March 1986	61	23	38	30	11	19	--	9
j.F2	The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA								
	Jan 7-11, 2015	54	14	41	33	13	20	1	12
	Mar 18-21, 2010	52	11	42	21	8	13	2	25
	June, 1999	49	9	40	33	10	23	1	17
	February, 1998	51	7	44	32	7	25	1	16
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	52	12	40	38	9	29	--	10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	61	14	47	26	6	20	--	13
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	53	15	38	33	11	22	--	15
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	58	17	41	30	8	22	--	11

**NO QUESTIONS 13, 17-19, 25-29, 39-49, 52-53, 56-60, 67-68**

**QUESTIONS 14-16, 20-24, 30-38, 50-51, 54-55, 61-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
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
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	--	--	--	--	--

**QUESTIONS REPJOB-DEMJOB PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Jan 7-11, 2015	17	27	52	2	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	18	28	51	1	2	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	19	32	46	2	2	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	18	25	52	4	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	22	29	46	2	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	17	20	56	3	4	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	19	26	52	2	1	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	18	29	50	2	1	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	19	29	47	1	3	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	19	25	52	2	2	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	18	26	53	2	2	--
Jul 16-26, 2012	16	27	54	2	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>1</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." 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 2010 through October 2010, 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 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."