

2014 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 7 SEPTEMBER
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 9-OCTOBER 3, 2014
TOTAL N=3,154
WEB RESPONDENTS N=2,811
MAIL RESPONDENTS N=343¹

ASK ALL:

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

25	Satisfied
75	Dissatisfied
5	No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.2 Thinking about things in your state, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your state today?²

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

38	Satisfied
61	Dissatisfied
*	No answer/Live in a different state

ASK ALL:

Q.3 And thinking about the local community where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community today?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

60	Satisfied
40	Dissatisfied
*	No answer

¹ Question wording in this topline is that from the web version of the survey unless otherwise noted. Question wording and format was adapted for the paper questionnaire delivered by mail; this questionnaire is available on request. All questions asked in both modes unless noted.

² In web version, respondent's state name was shown instead of "your state."

ASK ALL:

POL1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

ASK IF APPROVE (POL1=1):

POL1AGR. Do you approve very strongly, or not so strongly?

ASK DISAPPROVE (POL1=2):

POL1DIS. Do you disapprove very strongly, or not so strongly?

Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u>		May 30-June 30 <u>2014</u>
44	Approve	47
21	Very strongly	23
23	Not so strongly	24
*	No answer	*
55	Disapprove	53
41	Very strongly	40
15	Not so strongly	13
0	No answer	0
*	No answer	*

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Thinking about the State Legislature in your state, do you approve or disapprove of the way the State Legislature is handling their job?³ *Program an answer choice of "Live in different state" that will appear only when a soft prompt is used.*

Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u>	
41	Approve
57	Disapprove
2	No answer/Live in a different state

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way your governor is handling their job?

Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u>	
50	Approve
49	Disapprove
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

THOUGHT The congressional elections will be coming up later this year.
How much thought have you given to the coming November election?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2,886]

Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u>	
32	Quite a lot
41	Some
20	Only a little
8	None
0	No answer

³ In web version, respondent's state name was shown instead of "your state" and state legislature type (e.g., state legislature, general assembly, general court, legislative assembly) was shown instead of "State Legislature."

ASK ALL:

CAMPNII

How closely have you followed news about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

12

33

35

20

*

Very closely

Fairly closely

Not too closely

Not at all closely

No answer

May 30-June 30

2014

10

37

35

17

*

ASK ALL:

PRECINCT

Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

64

36

*

Yes

No

No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.6

Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

34

39

17

11

*

Most of the time

Some of the time

Only now and then

Hardly at all

No answer

ASK ALL:

OFTVOTE

How often would you say you vote?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

35

27

11

25

1

Always

Nearly always

Part of the time

Seldom

No answer

ASK ALL:**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

CONG If the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held TODAY, who would you vote for? Response options: Republican Party's candidate; Democratic Party's candidate; Another party's candidate; Not sure

ASK IF 'NOT SURE' (CONG=4) OR NO RESPONSE TO CONG (CONG=99):**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, KEEPING THEM IN THE SAME ORDER AS CONG]**

CONGA As of TODAY, who do you LEAN more towards for the U.S. House of Representatives?⁴ Response options: Lean to Republican Party's candidate; Lean to Democratic Party's candidate; Lean to another party's candidate; Not sure

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2,874]:

Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u>		May 30-June 30 <u>2014</u>
42	Rep/Lean Rep	38
47	Dem/Lean Dem	42
5	Another/Lean to another	5
6	Not sure	14
*	No answer	*

ASK ALL:**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

SEN. If the elections for the U.S. Senate were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Democratic Party's candidate OR the Republican Party's candidate for U.S. Senate in your state?⁵

ASK IF ANSWERED NOT SURE (SEN=4) OR IF NO RESPONSE TO SEN (SEN=99):**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, KEEPING THEM IN THE SAME ORDER AS SEN]**

SENA. As of TODAY, who do you LEAN more towards for the U.S. Senate?⁶ Program an answer choice of "Live in different state" that will appear only when a soft prompt is used.

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS IN STATES WITH SENATE RACES [N=1,593]:

Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u>	
40	Rep/Lean Rep
45	Dem/Lean Dem
6	Another/Lean to another
9	Not sure
*	No answer

⁴ Question wording on mail mode questionnaire asked POL5 only as follows: "If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for [FORM1/FORM2: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for Congress in your district?"

⁵ In web version, question was asked "If the elections for the U.S. Senate in [RSTATE] were being held TODAY, who would you vote for?" where respondent's state name was shown in place of [RSTATE]. Response options were customized based on respondent's state; the candidate's name and political affiliation were shown in addition to "Another candidate" and "Not sure."

⁶ Question wording on mail mode questionnaire asked SEN only as follows: "If the elections for U.S. Senate were being held TODAY, would you vote for [FORM1/FORM2: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for U.S. Senate in your state?"

ASK ALL:**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

GOV. If the elections for Governor were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Democratic Party's candidate OR the Republican Party's candidate for Governor in your state?⁷

ASK IF ANSWERED NOT SURE (GOV=4) OR IF NO RESPONSE TO GOV (GOV=99):**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, KEEPING THEM IN THE SAME ORDER AS GOV]**

GOVA. As of TODAY, who do you LEAN more towards for the U.S. Senate?⁸ *Program an answer choice of "Live in different state" that will appear only when a soft prompt is used.*

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS IN STATES WITH GUBERNATORIAL RACES [N=2,274]:

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

40	Rep/Lean Rep
45	Dem/Lean Dem
6	Another/Lean to another
8	Not sure
*	No answer

ASK IF REP CANDIDATE IN CONG (CONG = 1 OR CONGA = 1) [N=921]:

Q.7 Thinking again about the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives, do you think of your vote for Congress as more of a vote for the Republican party or more of a vote against the Democratic party?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

52	For the Republican Party
29	Against the Democratic Party
19	The parties are not a factor
--	No answer

ASK IF DEM CANDIDATE IN CONG (CONG = 2 OR CONGA = 2) [N=1038]:

Q.8 Thinking again about the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives, do you think of your vote for Congress as more of a vote for the Democratic Party or more of a vote against the Republican Party?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

54	For the Democratic Party
30	Against the Republican Party
16	The parties are not a factor
--	No answer

⁷ In web version, question was asked "If the elections for Governor in [RSTATE] were being held TODAY, who would you vote for?" where respondent's state name was shown in place of [RSTATE]. Response options were customized based on respondent's state; the candidate's name and political affiliation were shown in addition to "Another candidate" and "Not sure."

⁸ Question wording on mail mode questionnaire asked GOV only as follows: "If the elections for Governor were being held TODAY, would you vote for [FORM1/FORM2: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for U.S. Senate in your state?"

ASK IF 'FOR THE REPUBLICANS' in Q.7 (Q.7 = 1) [N=496]

Q.9 What is the main reason you consider your vote a vote FOR the Republican Party?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

38	Conservative/shared values
17	Disagreement with Democrats and/or Obama
13	Fiscal policy/smaller government
7	Votes with party identification
5	Entitlement programs
5	Party control of Congress
4	Abortion policy
4	"Lesser of two evils"
4	Better at handling economy
2	Foreign policy/defense
1	The candidate (specific mention)
1	Gun control policy
1	Immigration policy
1	Health care policy
1	Same-sex marriage
1	Religious reasons
1	Fewer regulations
4	None
7	Other
5	Don't know/Refused

*Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.***ASK IF 'AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS' in Q7 (Q.7 = 2) [N=358]**

Q.10 What is the main reason you consider your vote a vote AGAINST the Democratic Party?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

26	Too liberal/Do not share values
14	Mismanagement of country
12	Fiscal policies/Government too big
7	Disagreement with Obama/other Democrats
7	Democrats are worse than Republicans
6	Frustration with entitlement programs
4	Health care
4	Immigration
3	Party control of Congress
3	Foreign policy/national security
2	Abortion
2	Economy
2	Religious reasons
2	Gun control
1	Corruption
1	IRS problems
*	None
11	Other
12	Don't know/Refused

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

ASK IF 'FOR THE DEMOCRATS in Q.8 (Q.8 = 1) [N=630]

Q.11 What is the main reason you consider your vote a vote FOR the Democratic Party?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

45	Liberal/shared values
13	Support of middle class
13	Votes with party identification
8	Disagreement with Republicans
4	Stance on immigration
2	Fiscal policies
2	Stance on women's issues
1	Health care
1	"Lesser of two evils"
1	Environmental issues
1	Party control of Congress
3	None
10	Other
5	Don't know/Refused

*Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.***ASK IF 'AGAINST THE REPUBLICANS' in Q.8 (Q.8 = 2) [N=430]**

Q.12 What is the main reason you consider your vote a vote AGAINST the Republican Party?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

29	Lack of compromise/obstructionism
20	Favor the rich/Do not support middle class
20	Disagreement with Republican Party platform
9	Too conservative
6	Dislikes Democrats but dislikes Republicans more
4	Stance on women's issues
3	Frustration with Tea Party
2	Party control of Congress
1	The candidate
1	Environmental issues
1	Economic policies
1	Out of touch
5	None
12	Other
1	Don't know/Refused

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

Voter Registration Summary (used for analysis in this survey -- based on previous and current reported registration status)

Sep 15-Oct 3
2014
 72 Registered to vote
 20 Not registered to vote
 8 Not sure/No answer

ASK ALL CITIZENS [N=3,094]:

REGSTATUS Which of these statements best describes you?

Sep 15-Oct 3
2014
 73 I am registered to vote in **[FILL R'S STATE from prior wave/from typology for March wave]**
 2 I am registered to vote in a different state **[SPECIFY / DROPDOWN LIST OF 50 STATES AND DC]**
 16 I am not registered to vote
 8 I am not sure if I'm registered to vote
 * No answer

ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE (REGSTATUS=1,2) [N=2,877]:

UPDATE In the past 30 days, did you register to vote or update your voter registration?

Sep 15-Oct 3
2014
 9 Yes, I registered to vote
 7 Yes, I updated my registration
 82 No, I am registered to vote and made no changes in the past 30 days
 2 No answer

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTER IF STATE IS POST-PRIMARY AND NOT LA [N=2,944]:

PRIMARY14 As you may know, primary elections take place in the months before general elections. Did you happen to vote in the primary election this year?

Sep 15-Oct 3
2014
 47 NET Yes
 31 Yes, voted in person on Election Day
 5 Yes, voted in person before Election Day
 10 Yes, mailed in ballot
 53 No, did not vote this year
 1 No answer

ASK IF YES (PRIMARY14=1, 2, or 3) [N=1,583]:

PRIM14PTY Primaries are often associated with a specific political party. Did you vote in the Republican primary, the Democratic primary, or something else?

Sep 15-Oct 3
2014
 44 Republican Primary
 46 Democratic Primary
 8 Something else
 2 No answer

ASK ALL CITIZENS [N=3,094]:

PGENERAL How likely are you to vote in **[the general election] [IF LOUISIANA: the election]** this November?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

57	Definitely will vote
18	Probably will vote
12	Probably will not vote
12	Definitely will not vote
1	No answer

QUESTIONS PLAN2-19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

FINANCE

The next part of the interview asks questions about your financial situation and how you are getting along these days. Everything you tell us will be kept completely confidential, and you can decline to answer any question that you are not comfortable answering.

Do you have any of the following? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS, KEEPING OPTIONS F, G, AND H AT THE BOTTOM]** *[Check all that apply]*

	<u>Yes, selected</u>	<u>Did not select item</u>	<u>Skipped all items⁹</u>
a. A savings account Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	62	37	2
b. A checking account Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	81	18	2
c. A credit card Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	62	38	2
d. An IRA, 401K or a similar kind of retirement account Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	40	59	2
e. A pension plan Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	23	77	2
f. Another kind of retirement savings or investment Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	18	82	2
g. Another kind of non-retirement savings or investment Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	15	85	2

QUESTIONS CARD, DEBT HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 Have you or anyone in your household received any of the following government services and benefits in the past twelve months? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS, KEEPING NONE AT THE BOTTOM]** *[Check all that apply]*

	<u>Yes, selected</u>	<u>Did not select item</u>	<u>Skipped all items¹⁰</u>
a. Food assistance, such as SNAP benefits Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	16	83	1

⁹ Respondents were given an exclusive responsive option to indicate that they were not skipping the question entirely, but rather that they intentionally did not select any of the prior options.

¹⁰ See footnote 9.

Q.20 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, selected</u>	<u>Did not select item</u>	<u>Skipped all items</u>
b. Medicaid benefits Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	19	80	1
c. Unemployment benefits Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	4	95	1
d. Welfare benefits Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	2	97	1
e. Housing vouchers or housing assistance Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	4	95	1

QUESTION 21 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

Q.22 In the past year, have any of the following happened to you?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS A-K] *[Check all that apply]*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Not selected/ No answer</u>
ITEMS a-c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE		
d. Had trouble paying your bills Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	39	61

ITEMS e-f HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

g. Borrowed money from friends or family Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	33	67
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ITEMS h-k HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

Q.23 Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time?

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

83	Covered by health insurance
17	Not covered by health insurance
1	No answer

QUESTIONS DISAB1-26 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (F_REG TYPOLOGY=1):

PVOTE12A In the 2012 presidential election between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2,886]:

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

88	Voted
46	Obama
38	Romney
4	Other candidate
1	DK/Ref
10	Did not vote
2	Too young to vote
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

SCALE10 Please rate your chance of voting in November on a scale of 1 to 10.

Sep 15-Oct 3

2014

52	10 (Definitely will vote)
7	9
6	8
4	7
3	6
4	5
3	4
3	3
3	2
15	1 (Definitely will not vote)
1	No answer

QUESTIONS 27-40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE