

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015
N=1,504**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5a-5b, 8, 11a-b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 6-7, 9-10****ASK ALL:**

Q.11 As I read you some pairs of statements please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**. Next, **[NEXT PAIR] [IF NECESSARY: "Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?"]**

	Using overwhelming military force is the best way to defeat terrorism <u>around the world</u>	Relying too much on military force to defeat terrorism creates hatred that leads to more <u>terrorism</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
c.			
	47	46	7
Feb 18-22, 2015			
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	57	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	38	52	10
December, 2004	39	51	10

QUESTION 11d HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTION 12****ASK ALL:**

Q.13 As you may know, the United States government has a policy that it NEVER pays ransom money for hostages held by terrorist groups. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

Feb 18-22

2015

70	Approve
25	Disapprove
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 14-15, 19-24, 30-50, 55, 57, 60-61, 64-65**QUESTIONS 16-18, 25-29, 51a, 51c, 52-54, 56, 58F1-59F2, 62-63 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTION 51b PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

ASK ALL:

On a different subject ...

Q.66 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Feb 18-22 <u>2015</u>		Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>	Sep 11-14 <u>2014</u> ¹	(U) Aug 14-17 <u>2014</u> ²
63	Approve	57	53	54
30	Disapprove	33	29	31
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	19	15

ASK ALL:

Q.67 How well is the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Feb 18-22 <u>2015</u>		Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>
7	Very well	5
30	Fairly well	29
38	Not too well	38
20	Not at all well	21
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

ASK ALL:

Q.68 What concerns you more about the U.S. military action in Iraq and Syria? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

	That the US will go too far in getting involved in the situation	That the US will not go far enough in stopping the Islamic militants	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	46	49	1	1	4
Oct 15-20, 2014	47	43	1	2	7
Sep 11-14, 2014	41	41	3	6	9
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>What concerns you more about the U.S. military action in Iraq?</i>					
Aug 14-17, 2014	51	32	2	5	9

NO QUESTION 69**ASK ALL:**

Q.70 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. sending ground troops to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

Feb 18-22 <u>2015</u>		Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>
47	Favor	39
49	Oppose	55
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

¹ In the September 11-14, 2014 survey, respondents were asked: "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?"

² In the August 14-17, 2014 survey, respondents were asked: "Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrikes against militants in Iraq in response to violence against civilians?"

ASK ALL:

Q.71 Overall, do you think the United States and its allies will **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]** in their military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

Feb 18-22

2015

15 Definitely succeed
 45 Probably succeed
 28 Probably fail
 5 Definitely fail
 6 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NO QUESTIONS 72-73, 77, 79**QUESTIONS 74-76 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 78, 80 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****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?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
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
Yearly Totals								
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
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 REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=679]:

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ³	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

³ 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."