

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
MAY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
MAY 12-18, 2015  
N=2,002**

**QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Right now, which is more important for President Obama to focus on -- domestic policy or foreign policy?

	<u>Domestic</u> <u>policy</u>	<u>Foreign</u> <u>policy</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>Obama</b>					
May 12-18, 2015	66	19	1	10	4
Jan 7-11, 2015	67	20	2	8	3
Apr 23-27, 2014 <sup>1</sup> (U)	72	13	1	9	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	78	9	1	8	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	82	8	1	6	3
Jan 9-13, 2013	83	6	1	7	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	81	9	1	5	4
May 25-30, 2011	77	9	1	9	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009 <sup>2</sup>	71	11	*	14	4
<b>Next President</b>					
September, 2008 <sup>3</sup>	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
<b>G.W. Bush</b>					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3
<b>Clinton</b>					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

**NO QUESTIONS 4-9, 19-23, 25-27****QUESTIONS 10-18, 28-33F1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTION 24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>1</sup> The April 23-27, 2014 survey randomized response options by form.

<sup>2</sup> January 7-11, 2009 survey asked about "president-elect Obama."

<sup>3</sup> September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

**ASK ALL:**

On a few issues in the news...

Q.34 Do you approve or disapprove of the United States conducting missile strikes from pilotless aircraft called drones to target extremists in countries such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia?

May 12-18 <u>2015</u>		Feb 7-10 <u>2013</u>	Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>	Apr <u>2012</u> <sup>4</sup>
58	Approve	56	55	62
35	Disapprove	26	34	28
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	18	11	10

**ASK ALL:**

Q.35 How concerned are you, if at all, about whether U.S. drone strikes **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned? How about whether U.S. drone strikes **[ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?]**

	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Are being conducted legally					
May 12-18, 2015	29	35	16	17	3
February 7-10, 2013	31	35	13	15	7
b. Endanger the lives of innocent civilians					
May 12-18, 2015	48	32	11	8	1
February 7-10, 2013	53	28	8	7	4
c. Could lead to retaliation from extremist groups					
May 12-18, 2015	31	37	17	13	2
February 7-10, 2013	32	33	17	14	4
d. Could damage America's reputation around the world					
May 12-18, 2015	24	33	21	21	2
February 7-10, 2013	26	31	18	20	5

**QUESTIONS 36-38, 40-42F1, 47-53 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTIONS 39, 44-46 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 43, 54-60****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:**

Next,

Q.61F2 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the current situation and events in Afghanistan? Have you heard **[READ IN ORDER]**

May 12-18 <u>2015</u>	
26	A lot
56	A little
17	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>4</sup> Trend from the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project.

**QUESTION 61F2 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**

*How much, if anything, have you read or heard about Barack Obama's decision to send an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan?*

Dec 9-13		
<u>2009</u>		
53	A lot	
36	A little	
9	Nothing at all	
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:**

Q.62F2 As you may know, earlier this year President Obama announced that he would delay the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and keep about 10,000 troops there through the end of the year. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

May 12-18		
<u>2015</u>		
58	Approve	
39	Disapprove	
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:**

Q.63F2 Overall, do you think the United States has mostly succeeded or mostly failed in achieving its goals in Afghanistan?

		(U)
May 12-18		Jan 15-19
<u>2015</u>		<u>2014</u>
36	Mostly succeeded	38
56	Mostly failed	52
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Afghanistan, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in achieving its goals in Afghanistan?<sup>5</sup>*

	Definitely/ <u>Probably succeed</u>	Definitely/ <u>Probably fail</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	58	34	8
May 5-8, 2011	62	24	13
May 2, 2011	63	26	10
Dec 1-5, 2010	49	39	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	59	33	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	58	29	12
Dec 9-13, 2009	59	32	10
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	29	9

<sup>5</sup> Trend for comparison shows the net of answers "Definitely succeed" and "Probably succeed" and the net of answers "Definitely fail" and "Probably fail." See June 2011 topline for full trend.

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:**

Q.64F2 All things considered, how likely is it that Afghanistan will be able to maintain a stable government after U.S. forces leave the country? **[READ]**

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

May 12-18 2015		Jun 15-19 2011	Oct 28-Nov 8 2009
5	Very likely	5	8
24	Somewhat likely	33	44
33	Somewhat unlikely	31	22
35	Very unlikely	25	20
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	7

**NO QUESTIONS 65-69****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
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
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
<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

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
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=835]:**

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
May 12-18, 2015	34	13	51	1	*	--
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	11	52	1	1	--
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, 2013	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	--
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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <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 <sup>6</sup>	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

**QUESTIONS 70, 72 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 71, 73**

<sup>6</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."