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

# **QUESTIONS 1-3, 10a-b PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

#### **NO QUESTIONS 4-9**

#### ASK ALL:

Now thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues ...

Q.10 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
c.	The nation's immigration policy			
	May 12-18, 2015	37	56	7
	Dec 3-7, 2014	38	56	6
	Aug 20-24, 2014 (∪)	31	61	7
	Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	32	60	7
	Jun 12-16, 2013	43	47	11
	Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	44	43	13
	Nov 9-14, 2011	32	49	20
	Jan 6-9, 2011	35	50	16
	Jun 16-20, 2010	33	54	12
	May 6-9, 2010	25	54	21
	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	47	24
	Jan 6-10, 2010	30	50	21
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	48	21

# QUESTIONS 10dF1-gF2, 11-18 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

# **NO QUESTIONS 19-23**

# **QUESTION 24a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.24 Here are 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 PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]

b.		Immigrants today strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents	Immigrants today are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care	<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
	May 12-18, 2015	51	41	8
	Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	57	35	8
	Dec 3-8, 2013	53	35	11
	Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	49	40	11
	Mar 13-17, 2013	49	41	10
	Jan 4-8, 2012	48	37	15
	Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	45	44	12
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	44	42	14
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	42	45	13
	Jun 16-20, 2010	39	50	11
	Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	46	40	14

Immigrants today are a

#### **QUESTION 24 CONTINUED...**

	Immigrants today strengthen our country because of their hard work <u>and talents</u>	burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care	<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
October, 2006	41	41	18
March, 2006	41	52	7
December, 2005	45	44	11
December, 2004	45	44	11
June, 2003	46	44	10
September, 2000	50	38	12
August, 1999	46	44	10
October, 1997	41	48	11
June, 1997	41	48	11
April, 1997	38	52	10
June, 1996	37	54	9
July, 1994	31	63	6

# **NO QUESTIONS 25-27**

# **QUESTIONS 28-35 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.36 Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are now living in the U.S.? [READ AND RANDOMIZE] [They should not be allowed to stay in this country legally] [OR] [There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met]

# ASK IF ALLOWED TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY (Q.36=2) [N=1,467]:

Q.37 And do you think immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally and meet the requirements should **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** [Be able to apply for U.S. citizenship] [OR] [Be able to apply for permanent residency, but not U.S. citizenship]

	Allowed	Apply	Permanent		Not allowed	
	to stay	for	residency, not	(VOL.)	to stay	(VOL.)
	<u>legally</u>	<u>citizenship</u>	<u>citizenship</u>	DK/Ref	<u>legally</u>	DK/Ref
May 12-18, 2015	72	42	26	4	27	2
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	70	43	24	3	27	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	71	42	25	4	25	3
Jul 8-14, 2014	68	40	24	3	30	3
Feb 14-23, 2014	73	46	24	3	24	3
Jun 12-16, 2013	71				27	2
May 1-5, 2013	73	44	25	4	25	3
Mar 13-17, 2013 <sup>1</sup>	71	43	24	4	27	2

# **ASK ALL:**

Thinking about LEGAL immigration,

Q.38a Should LEGAL immigration into the United States be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?

May 12-18 <u>2015</u>		May 1-5 <u>2013</u>	Mar <u>2006</u>
39	Kept at present level	31	37
24	Increased	25	17
31	Decreased	36	40
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	6

In May 2013 and March 2013, question read "Which comes closer to your view about how to handle immigrants who are now living in the U.S. illegally?" and the second answer choice read "There should be a way for those who meet certain requirements to stay in the country legally."

#### QUESTION 38a CBS/NEW YORK TIMES TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	Kept at			(VOL.)
	present level	<u>Increased</u>	<u>Decreased</u>	DK/Ref
April 24-28, 2013	35	25	31	8
Sept 10-15, 2011	36	19	38	7
April 28-May 2, 2010	44	17	31	8
April 5-12, 2010	35	16	41	8
July 7-14, 2008	38	23	32	7
May 18-23, 2007	39	20	35	6
March 7-11, 2007	30	18	48	4
May 4-8, 2006	39	22	34	5
April 6-9, 2006	33	16	45	6
October 3-5, 2005	30	11	51	8
July 29-August 2, 2005	32	13	51	4
January 12-15, 2004	34	16	45	5
July 13-27, 2003	37	9	48	6
December 7-10, 2001	29	9	59	3
September 20-23, 2001	29	11	57	3
September 13-14, 2001	29	10	53	8
October 23-27, 1996	35	8	50	7

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.38b When it comes to reducing illegal immigration at U.S. borders, do you think there is a lot more the government can do, somewhat more, not much more, or nothing more that can be done?

May 12-18		May 1-5
2015		2013
51	A lot	53
29	Somewhat	30
12	Not much	8
4	Nothing	5
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.38c In your own view, do you feel that giving people who came to the U.S. illegally a way to gain legal status is like rewarding them for doing something wrong, or don't you think of it this way?

May 12-18		May 1-5
<u>2015</u>		<u>2013</u>
36	Like rewarding them for doing something wrong	37
58	Don't think of it this way	56
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

# QUESTIONS 39, 44-46, 61F2-64F2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

**QUESTIONS 40-42F1, 47-53 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE** 

NO QUESTIONS 43, 54-60, 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?

(VOL.) (VOL.) Other (VOL.) Lean No Lean <u>Republican</u> <u>Democrat</u> <u>Independent preference</u> <u>party</u> <u>DK/Ref</u> Rep 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 31 38 1 24 1 18 17

# PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

/ I AIK! I EIN COILIII	1020							
				<b>(VOL.)</b> No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	<u>Democrat</u>	Independent		party	DK/Ref	Rep	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
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 <i>27.9</i>	5.2 <i>5.2</i>	.6 .6	2.6	11.9	11.6 <i>9.4</i>
2001 Post-Sept 11	<i>30.9</i>	31.8	_	5.2 5.1		3.6 1.7	11.7 12.1	-
2001 Pre-Sept 11 2000	<i>27.3</i> 28.0	<i>34.4</i> 33.4	<i>30.9</i> 29.1	5.1 5.5	.6 .5		11.6	<i>13.5</i> 11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5 .5	3.6 1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.3 .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			J.¬ 		
1987	26	35	39					
	_0		2,5					

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]:

				(VOL.)		Not
			No opinion	Haven't	(VOL.)	heard of/
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	either way	heard of	Refused	<u>DK</u>
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	

# **TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.)		Not
			No opinion	Haven't	(VOL.)	heard of/
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	either way	heard of	Refused	<u>DK</u>
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	
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>2</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

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."

#### **QUESTIONS 70a-b PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

#### ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.70 Thinking about how the Republican Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

#### BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=835]:

		Good job	Not doing <u>a good job</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
c.	Illegal immigration	_		
	May 12-18, 2015	34	59	7
	Sep 2-9, 2014	37	56	7

#### **NO QUESTION 71**

#### **QUESTIONS 72a-b PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

# ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.72 Thinking about how the Democratic Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

#### **BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=975]:**

		Good job	Not doing a good job	(VOL.) DK/Ref
C.	Illegal immigration	_		
	May 12-18, 2015	51	43	7
	Sep 2-9, 2014	47	44	9

#### **NO QUESTION 73**

# Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls