

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
JULY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
JULY 14-20, 2015
N=2,002**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 9-10, 11a-d, 12-14, 21c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 3-8, 15-20, 21a****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.21 Which comes closer to your view — even if neither is exactly right. **[READ AND 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?"]**

	Our country has made the changes needed to give blacks equal rights with <u>whites</u>	Our country needs to continue making changes to give blacks equal rights <u>with whites</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
b.			
Jul 14-20, 2015	32	59	8
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	49	46	5
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	49	45	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	48	45	8
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	47	43	10

NO QUESTIONS 22-24**ASK ALL:**

Q.25 How big a problem is racism in our society today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?

		<i>Kaiser/ Wash Post</i>	<i>ABC/ Wash Post</i>	<i>Kaiser/ Harvard/Washington Post</i>				
		Nov <u>2011</u> ¹	Apr <u>2010</u>	Jan <u>2009</u>	Early July <u>1996</u>	Mid-July <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Sept <u>1995</u>
Jul 14-20 <u>2015</u>								
50	Big problem	28	33	26	54	53	48	41
33	Somewhat of a problem	48	42	48	35	35	36	42
11	Small problem	16	19	22	8	8	9	12
4	Not a problem	8	5	4	3	3	6	4
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	*	1	2	1	1

NO QUESTIONS 26-33, 39-44, 51-53, 57a, 60, 66-74, 78-80**QUESTIONS 34-38, 45-46, Q48F2-50, 61-65, 75-77 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 47F1, 54-56, 57b-e, 58-59 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

¹ In November 2011 and September 1995 the question was asked following a series of items on race and racial attitudes. In both July 1996 polls the question was asked in a list with other potential societal problems (E.g., violence, poverty, drug abuse, etc.). These surveys are shown in grayscale because the context of this question is different.

ASK ALL:

On a different subject ...

Q.81 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about recent debates over the Confederate flag around the country? Have you heard **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jul 14-20

2015

64	A lot
25	A little
10	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.82 When you see the Confederate flag displayed, do you have **[RANDOMIZE: a positive reaction, a negative reaction]** or neither?

Jul 14-20

2015

13	Positive reaction
28	Negative reaction
56	Neither
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Mar 30-Apr 3

2011

9
30
58
2

ASK ALL:

Q.83 As you may know, the South Carolina state government recently voted to take down the Confederate flag from statehouse grounds. In your view, was this the **[READ]**?²

Jul 14-20

2015

57	Right decision
34	Wrong decision
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF RIGHT DECISION OR WRONG DECISION (Q.83=1,2):

Q.84 Just in your own words, why do you say that? **[IF NECESSARY, READ: Why do you say that taking down the Confederate flag was the (IF Q.83=1, READ: right; IF Q.83=2, READ: wrong) decision?]** **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASONS?"]**

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAY "RIGHT DECISION" [N=1,228]:

Jul 14-20

2015

36	NET Represents racism/slavery
29	Racism/hatred
9	Slavery
20	NET Offensive/divisive
13	Flag is offensive/upsetting
7	Flag caused fuss, disturbance, conflict
16	NET Patriotic/anti-Confederacy
10	Confederacy lost the war, flag of traitors
7	Only US or state flag should be flown
12	NET Move on/move forward
10	Time to move on from history
2	Sign of progress, moving forward
11	NET Generic negative comments
10	Flag is negative/wrong, taking it down was right thing to do
1	Flag serves no purpose, is useless
8	Doesn't belong on government property

² On the first night of interviewing, wording for Q.83 was: "the Confederate flag that flew over the state capitol".

Q.84 CONTINUED...

Jul 14-20

2015

5	Charleston/current events
4	South Carolina's decision to make
2	Should never have been flown/should have been taken down before
5	Other
4	Don't know/No answer

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAY "WRONG DECISION" [N=615]:

Jul 14-20

2015

54	NET History and pride
49	History/heritage/can't erase past/people died for the flag/battle flag
7	Flag is a positive symbol/symbol of freedom
27	NET Flag misunderstood/Does not represent racism/hatred/slavery
20	Flag is not a symbol of hatred/racism/slavery
7	General misunderstanding of the flag's meaning
17	NET Taking the flag down is trivial
9	Flag is harmless/just a flag
3	Unnecessary to take down the flag
2	Pointless act/taking the flag down does not fix the issue
1	Not a priority/more important issues to deal with
1	Debate has caused more trouble/wedge between North and South
15	NET Overreaction
	Overreaction to current events/Charleston/not fair to take down due to actions of one person
8	person
7	General overreaction/state adopted views of a minority/emotional debate/wrong time
1	Sensationalized by media
12	NET Concerns about rights
9	Protection of rights/freedom of speech/right to have a flag
4	Government overreach/slippery slope/what will gov't take next?/political correctness
9	Other
4	Don't know/No answer

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.)		(VOL.)		Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Jul 14-20, 2015	22	32	41	4	*	1	15	19
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
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
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	--	--	--	--	--

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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Not
	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	Haven't heard of	Refused	heard of/DK
Jul 14-20, 2015	15	27	55	2	1	--
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	--

TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	(VOL.) No opinion either way	Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
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 ³	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

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."