As Economic Concerns Recede, Environmental Protection Rises on the Public's Policy Agenda

Partisan gap on dealing with climate change gets even wider

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research
Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director, Research
Nida Asheer, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

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How we did this

For this report on the public's policy agenda for the current year, we surveyed 1,504 U.S. adults by telephone in January 2020. The surveys were conducted in both English and Spanish over the phone under the direction of Abt Associates. Respondents to this survey were randomly selected via a combination of landline and cell phone random-digit-dial samples. To ensure that the results of this survey reflects a balanced cross section of the nation, the data are weighted to match the U.S. adult population by gender, age, education, race and ethnicity and other categories.

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and its methodology.

As Economic Concerns Recede, Environmental Protection Rises on the Public's Policy Agenda

Partisan gap on dealing with climate change gets even wider

Reflecting a strong U.S. economy, Americans' policy priorities have changed in recent years. The public now places less priority on economic and job concerns than it did just a few years ago. At the same time, environmental protection and global climate change are rising on the public's agenda for the president and Congress.

For the first time in Pew Research Center surveys dating back nearly two decades, nearly as many Americans say protecting the environment should be a top policy priority (64%) as say this about strengthening the economy (67%).

For the first time, environmental protection rivals the economy among the public's top policy priorities

% who say ___ should be a top priority for the president and Congress
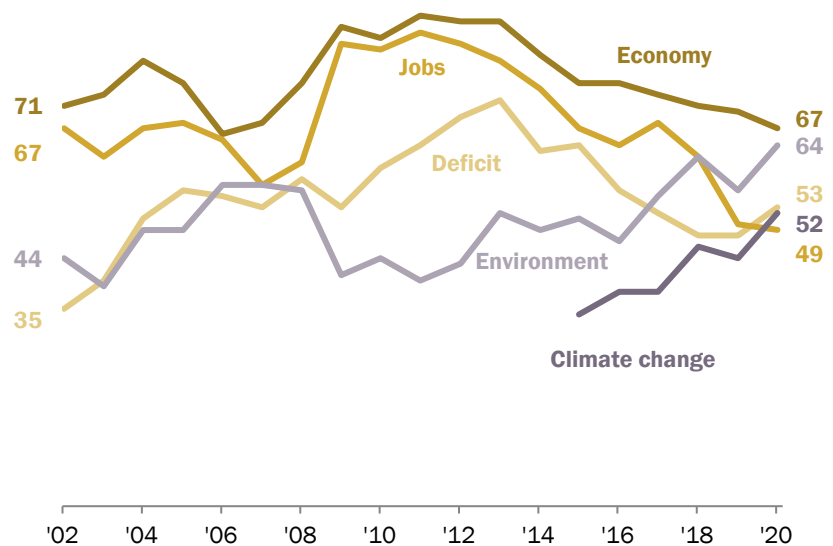
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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In addition, while a smaller share (52%) rates dealing with global climate change as a top priority, this is 14 percentage points higher than just three years ago. Today, similar shares rate climate change and improving the job situation (49%) as top policy priorities for President Donald Trump and Congress. Three years ago, 68% said jobs were a top priority, compared with just 38% who named climate change.

The public's concerns about jobs and the economy have decreased as perceptions of the national economy have improved. (For more on economic attitudes, see "Views of Nation's Economy Remain Positive, Sharply Divided by Partisanship.")

While environmental concerns have increased overall, partisanship continues to be a major factor in attitudes about the environment and climate change. Since 2017, virtually all the increase in the share of Americans saying global climate change should be a top priority has come among Democrats. Still, members of both parties are more likely to rate protecting the environment a top policy priority than did so a year ago, though this continues to be a much higher priority for Democrats than Republicans.

The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 8-13 on cellphones and landlines among 1,504 adults, finds that defending the country against terrorism remains a top priority among the public overall, as has been the case since 2002. Currently, 74% say defending the country from future terrorist attacks should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year – the highest of the 18 items included in the survey.

Defending against terrorism is followed by strengthening the economy, reducing health care costs and improving education, each of which is named as a top policy priority by 67% of the public. Nearly as many say that protecting the environment (64%) and taking steps to make Social Security financially sound (63%) should be top policy priorities.

The issue of climate change highlights the deep partisan divides in views of many public priorities.

Dealing with global climate change ranks at the bottom of the list of 18 policy priorities for Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (just 21% call it a top priority). By contrast, climate change is near the top of the list of issues among Democrats and Democratic leaners (78% call it a top priority).

Large majorities of Democrats also place top priority on protecting the environment (85%), reducing health care costs (80%) and improving the educational system (80%). For Republicans, no more than about half rate these issues top priorities. And there is a sizable divide on the importance of addressing gun policy: Democrats are roughly 40 percentage points more likely than Republicans to view this as a top priority for the president and Congress (66% vs. 25%).

Wide partisan gaps on climate change, environment, guns and stronger military

% who say ___ should be a top priority for President Trump and Congress

	Dem/ Lean Dem	Rep/ Lean Rep	Total
Terrorism	60	87	74
Economy	61	74	67
Health care costs	52	80	67
Education	52	80	67
Environment	39	85	64
Social Security	59	65	63
Poor and needy	42	68	57
Crime	53	57	56
Immigration	40	73	55
Budget deficit	45	62	53
Climate change	21	78	52
Drug addiction	48	51	50
Infrastructure	44	55	49
Jobs	45	51	49
Military	30	66	46
Gun policy	25	66	46
Race relations	30	57	44
Global trade	38	49	42

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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Among Republicans, defending the country from terrorist attacks (87%) ranks as the leading policy priority for the president and Congress, followed by strengthening the economy (74%) and dealing with the issue of immigration (73%). By contrast, about six-in-ten Democrats rate strengthening the economy (61%) and defending against

terrorism (60%) as top priorities; fewer than half say this about dealing with immigration (40%). Republicans also are much more likely than Democrats to say strengthening the U.S. military should be a top priority for the president and Congress (66% vs. 30%).

Changing views of the environment and climate change

Over the past year, both Republicans and Democrats have become more likely to say protecting the environment should be a top priority. However, when it comes to dealing with global climate change, Democrats place greater importance on the issue than they did a year ago, while views among Republicans have not changed.

Overall, 85% of Democrats say protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and Congress, up 11 percentage points from the share who said this in 2019. Fewer than half as many Republicans (39%) rate environmental protection as a major priority; still, this is up 8 points since last year and is the largest share of Republicans saying this in Pew Research Center surveys over the past decade.

Democrats and Republicans have long been far apart in their views of the importance of climate change. But the differences are now wider than ever: 78% of Democrats say addressing this issue is a top priority, up from 67% who said this last year. By contrast, the relatively small share of Republicans who say addressing climate change is a top priority (21%) is unchanged from a year ago.

Over the past several years, climate change has increased markedly as a policy priority among Democrats. In 2015, 46% of Democrats said it was a top priority, ranking it among the lower half of Democrats' priorities for the president and Congress. Since then, the share of Democrats rating it as a major priority has increased more

Environment rises as a priority, but partisan gap persists

% who say ___ should be a top priority for the president and Congress

'Protecting the environment'

Dem/Lean Dem: 65, 81, 74, 85, 62

Rep/Lean Rep: 38, 28, 37, 31, 39

'Global warming' / 'Climate change'

Dem/Lean Dem: 47, 55, 46, 62, 67, 78

Rep/Lean Rep: 15, 19, 16, 15, 21, 21
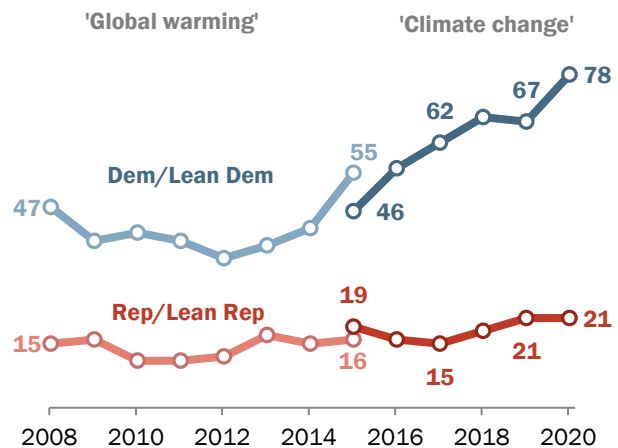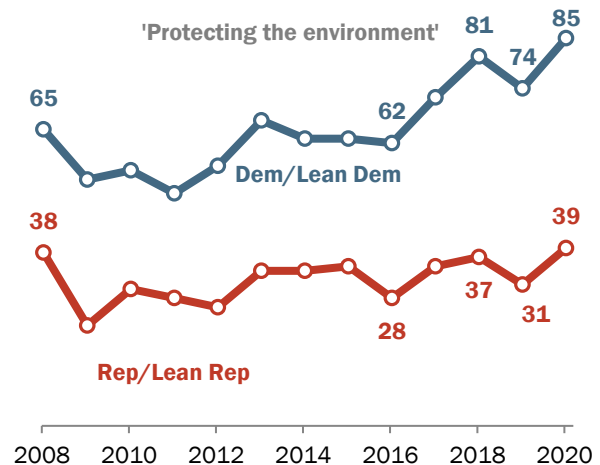
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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than 30 points; today it is in the top tier of Democrats' policy concerns, along with environmental protection, health care costs and education.

Long-term declines in the shares rating economic concerns as priorities

In 2011, 88% of Republicans and 87% of Democrats said strengthening the economy was a top priority for the president and Congress. Since then, there has been a gradual decline in the shares of both groups who place top priority on the economy, though the decline has been somewhat steeper among Democrats. In the current survey, the share of Democrats who say strengthening the economy is a top priority is down to 61%, while the share of Republicans who say this has fallen to 74%.

The priority placed on improving the job situation also has fallen sharply among partisans in the last decade. Overall, 51% of Democrats and 45% of Republicans say strengthening the job situation is a top priority for the president and Congress. In 2011, large majorities of both groups (87% and 86%, respectively) saw this as a top priority.

Far fewer in both parties say jobs a top priority than said this a decade ago

% who say ___ should be a top priority for the president and Congress

Strengthening the nation's economy

Improving the job situation
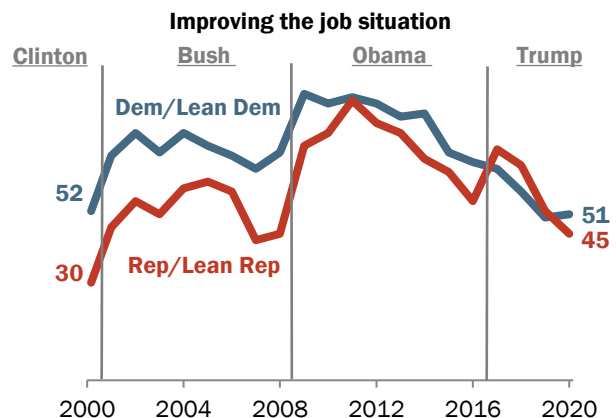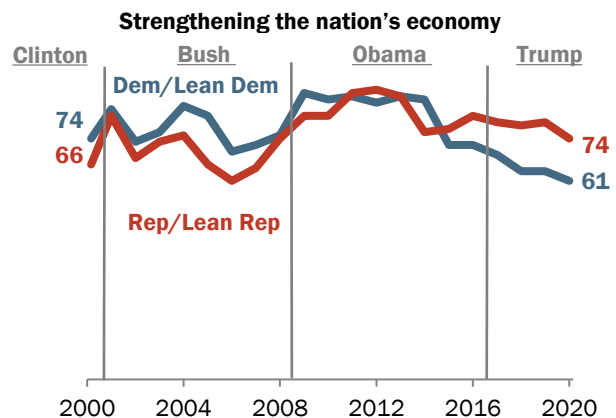
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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Currently, deficit reduction (53% top priority) ranks close to climate change as a mid-tier public priority. Among the public overall, concern over the deficit is down sharply from the start of Barack Obama's second term (73% called it a top priority in 2013).

The nation's debt and annual budget deficit have continued to increase in recent years, with the overall debt load exceeding the nation's gross domestic product. Yet in both parties, reducing the budget deficit has declined as a priority since 2013. Currently, 62% of Republicans and 45% of Democrats say reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

Deficit reduction has declined as a policy priority since Obama's presidency

% who say reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority for the president and Congress
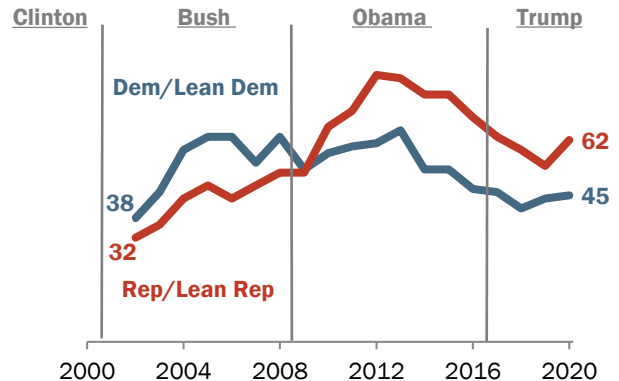
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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Age and gender differences in policy priorities

The policy priorities of younger and older Americans differ in several key respects. Older people are more likely to prioritize a range of issues such as strengthening the military and making the Social Security system financially sound. On the other hand, younger people are more likely to prioritize environmental issues.

A majority of adults ages 50 and older (57%) say strengthening the military should be a top priority for the president and Congress. Fewer of those ages 30 to 49 (42%) rate this as a top priority, as do just 28% of those under 30.

The age differences are nearly as stark in views of keeping Social Security financially sound. Majorities of those older than 30 say this should be a top priority, compared with 46% of those younger than 30.

Several other policy priorities – including reducing crime, cutting the budget deficit and defending the nation against terrorism – also are viewed as top priorities by larger shares of older adults than by young people.

Environment a top priority for younger adults; older Americans prioritize defense, Social Security

% who say ___ should be a top priority for Trump and Congress this year

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Young-old diff
	%	%	%	%	
Military	28	42	56	58	**-30**
Social Security	46	61	70	74	**-28**
Crime	44	51	61	68	**-24**
Budget deficit	39	54	56	63	**-24**
Infrastructure	38	42	58	61	**-23**
Terrorism	60	71	83	81	**-21**
Immigration	48	49	61	65	**-17**
Drug addiction	41	48	53	58	**-17**
Global trade	36	41	41	52	**-16**
Health care costs	61	67	68	73	-12
Gun policy	41	47	44	53	-12
Poor and needy	50	60	58	60	-10
Race relations	42	44	47	44	-2
Economy	66	72	69	60	+6
Jobs	50	48	53	44	+6
Education	74	69	66	59	**+15**
Climate change	61	53	50	45	**+16**
Environment	77	67	57	55	**+22**

Note: Significant differences in **bold.**
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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By contrast, Americans under the age of 30 are more likely to prioritize protecting the environment (77% vs. 55%), improving the educational system (74% vs. 59%) and dealing with climate change (61% vs. 45%) than are older Americans.

Women are more likely than men to prioritize a range of policy goals, particularly dealing with gun policy and addressing global climate change.

While a 56% majority of women say dealing with gun policy is a top priority, only about a third of men (36%) say the same. And women are 16 percentage points more likely than men to say that dealing with global climate change should be a top policy priority (60% vs. 44%).

Larger shares of women than men also prioritize reducing health care costs, dealing with the problems of the poor and needy, improving the job situation and protecting the environment.

For their part, men are slightly more likely than women to prioritize reducing the budget deficit (57% vs. 49%), dealing with immigration (59% vs. 51%) and dealing with global trade (46% vs. 38%).

Women are more likely than men to prioritize gun policy, climate change

% who say ___ should be a top priority for Trump and Congress this year

	Men	Women	Men-women diff
	%	%	
Gun policy	36	56	**-20**
Climate change	44	60	**-16**
Health care costs	62	72	**-10**
Poor and needy	52	62	**-10**
Jobs	44	54	**-10**
Environment	59	69	**-10**
Education	63	71	-8
Race relations	41	48	-7
Crime	54	58	-4
Drug addiction	48	52	-4
Infrastructure	49	49	0
Terrorism	74	73	+1
Economy	68	67	+1
Social Security	64	62	+2
Military	48	45	+3
Budget deficit	57	49	+8
Immigration	59	51	+8
Global trade	46	38	+8

Note: Significant differences in **bold.**
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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Public's policy priorities: 2012-2020

There have been sizable changes in the public's policy priorities since 2016 and 2012, the previous presidential election years.

Economic concerns have declined since 2012, when the unemployment rate was more than double its current level of 3.6%.

The share of Americans who say improving the job situation is a top priority has declined by 33 percentage points since 2012 and 15 points since 2016. Similarly, while an overwhelming share of the public (86%) cited strengthening the economy as a major priority in 2012, and 75% did so four years later, that has now fallen to 67%.

Over the same period, protecting the environment has risen on the public's

Nearly half now say improving U.S. infrastructure is a top policy priority, up since 2012

% who say ___ should be a top priority for the president and Congress

	8 years ago Jan 2012	4 years ago Jan 2016	1 year ago Jan 2019	Now Jan 2020	8-year chg '12-'20	4-year chg '16-'20	1-year chg '19-'20
	%	%	%	%			
Terrorism	69	75	67	74	+5	-1	**+7**
Economy	86	75	70	67	**-19**	**-8**	-3
Health care costs	60	61	69	67	**+7**	**+6**	-2
Education	65	66	68	67	+2	+1	-1
Environment	43	47	56	64	**+21**	**+17**	**+8**
Social Security	68	62	67	63	-5	+1	-4
Poor and needy	52	54	60	57	+5	+3	-3
Crime	48	58	50	56	**+8**	-2	**+6**
Immigration	-	51	51	55	-	+4	+4
Budget deficit	69	56	48	53	**-16**	-3	+5
Climate change	-	38	44	52	-	**+14**	**+8**
Drug addiction	-	-	49	50	-	-	+1
Infrastructure	30	-	45	49	**+19**	-	+4
Jobs	82	64	50	49	**-33**	**-15**	-1
Military	39	49	45	46	**+7**	-3	+1
Gun policy	-	37	-	46	-	**+9**	-
Race relations	-	-	46	44	-	-	-2
Global trade	38	31	39	42	+4	**+11**	+3

Note: Significant changes in **bold.**
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-13, 2020.

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agenda. In 2012, 43% of Americans rated this as a top priority. Today, more than six-in-ten (64%) do so. And 49% of Americans now say improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems should be a top priority, up from 30% in 2012.

Yet the public's views of several priorities have shown little change during the past eight years. Currently, nearly three-quarters of Americans (74%) say defending against terrorism should be a top priority; this is comparable to shares saying this in 2016 (75%) and 2012 (69%). And there

have been only modest changes in the shares rating strengthening Social Security as a top priority over this period.

Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 8-13, 2020, among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (301 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,203 were interviewed on a cellphone, including 839 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of Abt Associates. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International LLC. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. The weighting procedure corrected for the different sampling rates. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/.

The combined landline and cell phone sample is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey one-year estimates and population density to parameters from the decennial census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2018 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Survey conducted January 8-13, 2020

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1504		3.0 percentage points
Half sample	At least 746		4.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	696	42	4.3 percentage points
Half sample	At least 339		6.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	660	45	4.5 percentage points
Half sample	At least 320		6.4 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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JANUARY 2020 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
JANUARY 8-13, 2020
N= 1,504

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

	Satis-fied	Dis-satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis-fied	Dis-satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	37	58	4	Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5
Sep 5-16, 2019	34	60	6	Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4
July 10-15, 2019	37	58	5	Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7
Mar 20-25, 2019	31	63	6	Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5
Jan 9-14, 2019	26	70	4	Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8
Sep 18-24, 2018	33	61	6	Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5
Jun 5-12, 2018	34	61	6	Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5
Apr 25-May 1, 2018	33	62	6	May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7
Mar 7-14, 2018	30	66	4	Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6
Jan 10-15, 2018	32	62	6	Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	27	68	6	Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4
Oct 25-30, 2017	26	70	5	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5
Jun 27-Jul 9, 2017	28	67	5	Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4
Apr 5-11, 2017	30	66	4	Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4
Feb 7-12, 2017	30	65	5	Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4
Jan 4-9, 2017	28	68	4	May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	30	65	5	May 2, 2011	32	60	8
Oct 20-25, 2016	33	63	4	Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5
Aug 9-16, 2016	31	66	3	Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	71	5	Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6
Apr 12-19, 2016	26	70	3	Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7
Mar 17-26, 2016	31	65	4	Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8
Jan 7-14, 2016	25	70	5	Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7
Dec 8-13, 2015	25	72	3	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	27	67	5	Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	69	4	May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	64	4	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5
May 12-18, 2015	29	67	4	Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Mar 25-29, 2015	31	64	5	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	Sep 10-15, 2009[1]	30	64	7
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	26	69	5	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6	December, 2008	13	83	4
May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5	Early October, 2008	11	86	3

[1] In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	Satis-fied	Dis-satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis-fied	Dis-satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	March, 2002	50	40	10
August, 2008	21	74	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
July, 2008	19	74	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
June, 2008	19	76	5	June, 2001	43	52	5
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	October, 2000 *(RVs)*	54	39	7
October, 2007	28	66	6	September, 2000	51	41	8
February, 2007	30	61	9	June, 2000	47	45	8
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
December, 2006	28	65	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	November, 1998	46	44	10
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
July, 2006	30	65	5	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
March, 2006	32	63	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	January, 1998	46	50	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
July, 2005	35	58	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	July, 1996	29	67	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
January, 2005	40	54	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
December, 2004	39	54	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 2004	38	55	7	July, 1994	24	73	3
May, 2004	33	61	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	October, 1993	22	73	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	September, 1993	20	75	5
December, 2003	44	47	9	May, 1993	22	71	7
October, 2003	38	56	6	January, 1993	39	50	11
August, 2003	40	53	7	January, 1992	28	68	4
April, 2003	50	41	9	November, 1991	34	61	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	*Gallup*: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
November, 2002	41	48	11	August, 1990	47	48	5
September, 2002	41	55	4	May, 1990	41	54	5
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	January, 1989	45	50	5
May, 2002	44	44	12	September, 1988 *(RVs)*	50	45	5

QUESTIONS 2, 4-5, 10, 25-26, 40-42, 45-46, 50-51, 53 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUESTIONS 3, 15-16, 30-31, 35, 47-48 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 6-9, 11-14, 17-24, 27-29, 32-34, 36-39, 43-44, 49, 52, 54-59

ASK ALL

Q.60   Now, I'd like to ask you about priorities for President Trump and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **[INSERT ITEM]**?) **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY TO BE SURE RESPONDENT UNDERSTANDS SCALE:** should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?**]**

SUMMARY TABLE		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
f.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	74	19	5	2	*
o.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	67	27	4	1	1
e.F1	Reducing health care costs	67	26	4	4	*
h.F1	Improving the educational system	67	26	4	2	1
d.F1	Protecting the environment	64	24	8	3	1
q.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	63	32	3	1	1
r.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	57	35	5	2	*
c.F1	Reducing crime	56	34	7	2	1
n.F2	Dealing with the issue of immigration	55	26	11	5	2
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	53	35	8	2	2
p.F2	Dealing with global climate change	52	23	15	10	1
w.F2	Dealing with drug addiction	50	38	8	3	1
i.F1	Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems	49	38	11	1	*
a.F1	Improving the job situation	49	40	7	3	1
s.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	46	28	15	11	1
t.F2	Dealing with gun policy	46	24	11	17	2
u.F2	Addressing race relations in this country	44	38	9	6	2
g.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	42	43	10	3	2

FULL TRENDS	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:					
a.F1 Improving the job situation					
Jan 8-13, 2020	49	40	7	3	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	50	39	8	1	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	62	30	6	1	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	68	27	3	*	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	64	29	5	1	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	67	28	3	1	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	74	21	1	2	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	79	16	2	3	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	82	14	1	2	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	84	13	*	1	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	81	15	1	1	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	82	15	1	1	1
January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2
January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2
January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2
January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1
January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1
January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1
January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2
January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4
July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3

Q.60a.F1 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4
January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1
January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1
December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2

b.F1   Reducing the budget deficit

Jan 8-13, 2020	53	35	8	2	2
Jan 9-14, 2019	48	37	9	2	3
Jan 10-15, 2018	48	37	8	2	5
Jan 4-9, 2017	52	33	8	3	4
Jan 7-14, 2016	56	33	6	2	3
Jan 7-11, 2015	64	28	4	1	3
Jan 15-19, 2014	63	27	5	1	4
Jan 9-13, 2013	72	20	3	2	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	69	21	5	2	3
Jan 5-9, 2011	64	27	3	2	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	60	29	5	2	4
Jan 7-11, 2009	53	33	7	2	4
January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3
January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4
January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4
January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3
January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2
January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3
January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5
January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3
December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
Paying off the national debt

January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4
January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4
July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2
January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4
January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2

c.F1   Reducing crime

Jan 8-13, 2020	56	34	7	2	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	50	36	11	2	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	56	33	9	2	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	56	33	8	3	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	58	33	6	2	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	57	32	8	2	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	55	35	7	2	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	55	33	9	2	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	48	37	11	2	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	44	43	10	2	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	8	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	46	41	9	2	2
January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2
January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1
January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2
January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1
January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2
January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2
January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2
January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*
January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2
July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1

Q.60c.F1 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2
January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1
January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*
December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2

d.F1   Protecting the environment

Jan 8-13, 2020	64	24	8	3	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	56	35	8	1	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	62	29	7	1	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	55	33	10	2	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	47	40	9	3	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	51	37	9	2	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	49	40	7	3	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	33	10	3	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	39	15	3	*
Jan 5-9, 2011	40	44	12	3	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	42	11	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	41	42	12	3	2
January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1
January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1
January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1
January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*
January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*
January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1
January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1
January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1
January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1
July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1
January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1
January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1
January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1

e.F1   Reducing health care costs

Jan 8-13, 2020	67	26	4	4	*
Jan 9-14, 2019	69	25	3	2	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	68	26	3	3	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	66	28	3	3	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	61	29	5	4	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	64	26	4	5	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	59	31	4	6	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	63	26	4	5	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	60	30	4	5	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	61	28	4	4	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	57	31	5	4	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	59	30	5	4	2
January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1
January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON...
Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans

January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3
January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4
January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2
Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2

Q.60e.F1 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED…

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3
January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3

f.F1   Defending the country from future terrorist attacks

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	74	19	5	2	*
Jan 9-14, 2019	67	23	7	2	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	73	21	4	1	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	76	19	3	1	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	75	20	4	1	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	76	19	4	1	*
Jan 15-19, 2014	73	23	3	1	*
Jan 9-13, 2013	71	22	5	1	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	69	25	5	1	*
Jan 5-9, 2011	73	22	3	1	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2
January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2
January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1
January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1
January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1
January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0
January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1

g.F1   Dealing with global trade issues

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	42	43	10	3	2
Jan 9-14, 2019	39	46	8	2	4
Jan 10-15, 2018	38	44	10	2	5
Jan 4-9, 2017	40	46	8	3	3
Jan 7-14, 2016	31	49	13	3	4
Jan 7-11, 2015	30	50	12	3	4
Jan 15-19, 2014	28	50	15	3	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	31	47	15	2	6
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	40	14	4	4
Jan 5-9, 2011	34	44	13	3	5
Jan 6-10, 2010	32	46	12	4	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	31	49	11	2	7
January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5
January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6
January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8
January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6
January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4
January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5
January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6
January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7

h.F1   Improving the educational system

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	67	26	4	2	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	68	25	4	2	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	72	23	3	1	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	69	26	4	1	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	66	26	4	3	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	67	27	3	3	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	69	24	3	2	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	70	22	4	2	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	65	27	4	3	1

Q.60h.F1 CONTINUED…

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	5	2	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	65	28	4	2	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	61	30	5	2	2
January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2
January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1
January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1
January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1
January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2
January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2
Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1
January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1
January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1
July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2
January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1
January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*
January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*

i.F1 Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	49	38	11	1	*
Jan 9-14, 2019	45	43	9	1	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	49	39	11	1	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	36	51	12	*	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	42	47	9	1	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	39	46	13	1	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	51	16	2	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	30	52	15	2	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2

NO ITEMS j,k,l,m

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=758]
n.F2 Dealing with the issue of immigration

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	55	26	11	5	2
Jan 9-14, 2019	51	35	7	4	2
Jan 10-15, 2018	47	35	11	5	2
Jan 4-9, 2017	43	39	11	5	2
Jan 7-14, 2016	51	35	10	3	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	52	34	8	4	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	40	40	14	5	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 15-19, 2014	41	36	16	4	3
Jan 9-13, 2013	39	40	13	4	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	39	38	17	4	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	38	12	3	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2
January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2

o.F2 Strengthening the nation's economy

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	67	27	4	1	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	70	25	3	1	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	71	23	3	1	2
Jan 4-9, 2017	73	24	1	1	1

Q.60o.F2 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 7-14, 2016	75	22	2	1	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	75	22	1	1	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	80	15	2	2	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	86	11	1	1	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	86	11	1	1	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	87	11	1	1	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	83	14	1	1	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	85	12	*	1	1
January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2
January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1
January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2
January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1
January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1
Early September, 2001[2]	80	18	1	*	1
January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1

p.F2 Dealing with global climate change

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	52	23	15	10	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	44	29	15	9	3
Jan 10-15, 2018	46	24	17	9	4
Jan 4-9, 2017	38	34	18	7	3
Jan 7-14, 2016	38	32	17	10	2
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	33	17	13	3

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
Dealing with global warming

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 7-11, 2015	38	29	17	14	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	29	31	20	15	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	28	36	18	14	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	25	35	20	16	4
Jan 5-9, 2011	26	35	21	14	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	28	36	20	14	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	30	37	19	10	4
January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5
January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4

q.F2 Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	63	32	3	1	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	67	28	2	2	2
Jan 10-15, 2018	67	27	3	1	2
Jan 4-9, 2017	60	33	3	2	2
Jan 7-14, 2016	62	31	5	1	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	66	27	4	1	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	66	28	4	1	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	70	24	2	1	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	68	26	2	2	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	4	1	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	66	28	3	2	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	63	31	3	1	2
January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2
January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1
January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2

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[2]   In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

Q.60q.F2 CONTINUED…

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1
January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2
January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2
Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1
January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2
January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1
July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1
January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*
January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1

r.F2   Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	57	35	5	2	*
Jan 9-14, 2019	60	34	4	1	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	58	32	6	1	2
Jan 4-9, 2017	56	37	4	1	1
Jan 7-14, 2016	54	36	8	1	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	55	35	7	2	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	49	39	8	2	2
Jan 9-13, 2013	57	32	6	3	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	52	36	8	2	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	52	36	8	2	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	53	38	6	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	3	2
January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3
January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1
January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2
January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1
January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1
January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1
January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1
January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2
January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2
July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1
January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1
January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1
January, 1997	57	35	6	2	2

s.F2   Strengthening the U.S. military

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	46	28	15	11	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	45	33	14	7	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	46	32	15	7	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	45	34	12	6	3
Jan 7-14, 2016	49	29	14	7	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	52	31	9	6	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	43	36	14	6	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	41	36	14	7	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	39	36	15	8	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	43	35	14	6	3
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	35	10	5	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	44	39	8	4	5
January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3
January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4
January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3
January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2
January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1

Q.60s.F2 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3
January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2
January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2

t.F2 Dealing with gun policy

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	46	24	11	17	2
Jan 7-14, 2016	37	27	16	17	3

u.F2 Addressing race relations in this country

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	44	38	9	6	2
Jan 9-14, 2019	46	38	10	5	2
Jan 10-15, 2018	52	31	10	4	3
Jan 4-9, 2017	56	33	6	3	2
Jan 7-11, 2015	49	33	10	6	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
Working to reduce racial tensions

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
January, 2003	33	43	18	4	2
January, 2001	52	35	7	3	3
January, 2000	46	40	10	2	2
July, 1999	49	37	8	4	2
January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2
January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1
January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2

NO ITEM v

w.F2 Dealing with drug addiction

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	50	38	8	3	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	49	40	8	2	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	49	38	9	2	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	36	45	14	3	1

NO QUESTIONS 61-62

QUESTIONS 63-67 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

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
Jan 8-13, 2020	27	27	39	3	1	2	15	18
Sep 5-16, 2019	26	29	39	2	1	2	15	18
July 10-15, 2019	28	30	36	3	1	2	15	17
Mar 20-25, 2019	26	30	37	3	1	3	14	19
Jan 9-14, 2019	25	31	40	2	1	2	16	18
Sep 18-24, 2018	25	32	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jun 5-12, 2018	25	31	38	3	1	2	15	18
Apr 25-May 1, 2018	27	28	38	4	1	2	14	19
Mar 7-14, 2018	26	28	41	3	*	1	17	18
Jan 10-15, 2018	26	33	34	3	1	3	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2019	26.4	30.2	37.9	2.5	1.0	2.1	15.1	18.0
2018	25.7	30.8	37.6	3.0	.8	2.0	14.7	18.3
2017	23.6	31.4	39.4	3.3	.6	1.7	15.8	18.7
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
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
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	--	--	--	--	--

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)   Pew Research Center/USA Today polls