

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY
AUGUST 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
August 20-24, 2014
N=1,501**

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Dis- (VOL.)				Dis- (VOL.)		
	Approve	Approve	DK/Ref		Approve	Approve	DK/Ref
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

See past presidents' approval trends: [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)

**QUESTIONS 2-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 4-12**

ASK ALL:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.13 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**
 How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. The economy			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	39	55	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	40	56	4
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	42	53	5
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	31	65	3
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	43	52	5
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	50	5
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	40	56	4
Mar 7-11, 2012	43	53	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	59	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	35	58	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
May 2, 2011	40	55	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20
b. The nation's immigration policy			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	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

QUESTION 13c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

d. The situation involving Russia and Ukraine			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	35	52	14
TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
<i>Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Obama administration is handling the situation involving Russia and Ukraine?</i>			
Mar 6-9, 2014	30	44	26
e. The nation's policy toward Israel			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	37	48	15
Jun 12-16, 2013	41	39	20

Q.13 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
f. The situation in Iraq			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	35	56	9
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	54	11
Jan 6-9, 2011	46	41	12
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	44	11
Jan 6-10, 2010	45	44	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	41	48	12
Jul 22-26, 2009	47	38	15

ASK ALL:

Now, thinking about foreign policy and national security...

Q.14 Do you think Barack Obama is too tough, not tough enough or about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

(U)		Oct 30-Nov 6	Sept 13-16	Apr 21-26	Oct 28-Nov 8	June 10-14
Aug 20-24		<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
<u>2014</u>						
3	Too tough	5	2	2	3	2
54	Not tough enough	51	41	47	47	38
36	About right	37	42	41	43	51
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	15	10	7	8

**NO QUESTIONS 15-20, 23, 26-29, 37, 39, 41-48
QUESTIONS THOUGHT, 21-22, 24-25 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 30-36, 38, 40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

RANDOMIZE Q.49 AND Q.50**ASK ALL:**

Q.49 Do you think we live in a safer world now than we did several years ago, a more dangerous world, or have things not changed very much?

(U)		(Gallup/CNN/USA Today)
Aug 20-24		March
<u>2014</u>		<u>1993</u>
7	Safer world	19
65	More dangerous world	58
27	Not changed very much	22
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

RANDOMIZE Q.49 AND Q.50**ASK ALL:**

Q.50 Do you think the United States plays a more important and powerful role as a world leader today compared to 10 years ago, a less important role, or about as important a role as a world leader as it did 10 years ago?

	<u>More important</u>	<u>Less important</u>	<u>As important</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	15	48	34	2
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	17	53	27	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	41	30	4
July, 2004	45	20	31	4
Early September, 2001	33	26	38	3
September, 1997	35	23	40	2
December, 1994	40	27	29	4
October, 1993	37	26	33	4
September, 1993	37	30	31	2

Q.50 CONTINUED...

	More <u>important</u>	Less <u>important</u>	As <u>important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1990</i> ¹	37	35	24	4
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1986</i>	41	26	29	4
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1982</i>	27	25	44	5
<i>Chicago CFR: November, 1978</i>	29	41	24	6
<i>Chicago CFR: December, 1974</i>	28	39	27	6

NO QUESTION 51**ASK ALL:**

Q.52 In terms of solving world problems, does the United States do too much, too little, or the right amount in helping solve world problems?

(U)		(GA)
Aug 20-24 <u>2014</u>		Oct 30-Nov 6 <u>2013</u>
		Summer <u>2002</u>
39	Does too much	51
31	Does too little	17
24	Does right amount	28
*	United States does nothing (VOL.)	1
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3
		5

NO QUESTION 53**ASK ALL:**

Q.54 I'd like your opinion about some possible international concerns for the U.S. Do you think that **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is a major threat, a minor threat or not a threat to the well being of the United States? What about **[INSERT ITEM]? [READ THE ANSWER CHOICES AS NECESSARY AFTER THE FIRST TIME]**

	Major <u>threat</u>	Minor <u>threat</u>	Not a <u>threat</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. China's emergence as a world power				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	33	14	5
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	54	31	11	4
May, 2012 (C)	52	35	9	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	53	30	10	7
Jun 10-14, 2009	52	31	11	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	46	36	13	5
September, 2008	48	35	11	6
Late May, 2008	50	31	10	9
February, 2006	47	34	12	7
Late October, 2005	52	31	10	7
May, 2001	51	30	10	9
July, 1999	53	33	10	4
b. Growing tension between Russia and its neighbors				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	53	35	8	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	44	9	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	37	48	8	7
September, 2008	44	41	10	5
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
<i>Growing authoritarianism in Russia</i>				
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	32	41	13	14
Late May, 2008	24	46	12	18

¹ Surveys conducted December 1974 through November 1990 by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Q.54 CONTINUED...

	Major threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February, 2006	22	45	16	17
Late October, 2005	23	44	13	20
<i>Political and economic instability in Russia</i>				
May, 2001	27	46	12	15
July, 1999	40	42	14	4
c. North Korea's nuclear program				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	57	30	9	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	67	24	6	3
May, 2012 (C)	69	22	5	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	69	23	3	5
June 10-14, 2009	72	19	5	5
January 7-11, 2009	53	32	8	7
September, 2008	55	33	7	5
Late May, 2008	55	32	7	6
February, 2006	60	27	6	7
Late October, 2005	66	24	4	6
d. Iran's nuclear program				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	59	28	9	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	68	23	5	3
May, 2012 (C)	70	21	4	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	72	20	3	6
June 10-14, 2009	69	20	5	5
January 7-11, 2009	65	23	6	6
September, 2008	60	29	6	5
Late May, 2008	62	25	8	5
February, 2006	65	24	5	6
Late October, 2005	61	27	5	7
e. Global climate change				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	30	20	3
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	45	30	20	4
May, 2012 (C)	45	32	19	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	44	36	15	5
TREND FOR COMPARISON				
<i>Global environmental problems</i>				
May, 2001	53	32	6	9
f. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	33	13	6
June, 2009	49	35	9	6
January, 2009	45	40	9	6
g. The rapid spread of infectious diseases from country to country				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	52	40	6	2
May, 2001	66	26	3	5
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:				
h. Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda				
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	71	19	6	3
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	75	18	4	3
May, 2012 (C)	70	21	4	5
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	76	18	2	3
June 10-14, 2009	78	14	4	4
January 7-11, 2009	77	15	4	4

Q.54 CONTINUED...

	Major threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September, 2008	72	21	3	4
Late May, 2008	72	18	4	6

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=744]:

i. The Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	67	21	5	6
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NO QUESTIONS 55-59, 61, 64-65, 67-68, 71-76
QUESTIONS 60, 62-63 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 66, 69-70 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.77 Thinking about the long-term future of the Middle East, do you think militant forms of Islam will grow in influence or decline in influence?

(U)	
Aug 20-24 2014	
63	Grow in influence
25	Decline in influence
1	Stay about the same (VOL.)
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 78-84, 87-89
QUESTIONS 85-86, 90-91 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
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
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Yearly Totals								
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) (VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
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 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=608]

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

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

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

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(C)	Pew Research Global Attitudes/Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
(GA)	Pew Research Center Global Attitudes Project

² 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."