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# Democrats Have More Positive Image, But GOP Runs Even or Ahead on Key Issues

*Public Remains Split Over ‘Who Should Take the Lead’ on Problems*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# Democrats Have More Positive Image, But GOP Runs Even or Ahead on Key Issues

## *Public Remains Split Over ‘Who Should Take the Lead’ on Problems*

This week’s political battles over immigration, funding for the Department of Homeland Security and the Keystone XL pipeline have been waged by opposing parties that possess starkly different strengths and weaknesses.

Majorities say the Democratic Party is open and tolerant, cares about the middle class and is not “too extreme.” By contrast, most Americans see the GOP lacking in tolerance and empathy for the middle class, and half view it as too extreme.

Nonetheless, the Republicans more than hold their own with the Democrats in views of which party can better handle major issues. The Republican Party runs even on the economy and immigration and holds double-digit leads over the Democrats on terrorism, foreign policy and taxes.

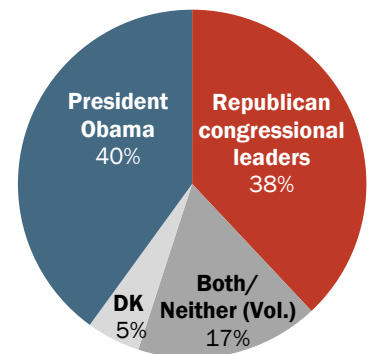
President Obama’s job approval has ticked up in recent months, to 48% currently, and his rating dwarfs the 26% approval measure for the leaders of the new Republican Congress. Yet the public is divided over whether Obama or Republican congressional leaders should take the lead in solving the nation’s problems: 40% say Obama while 38% say GOP leaders. That is virtually unchanged from a few days after the midterm elections in November.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015 among 1,504 adults, finds that both parties are viewed by majorities as having strong principles. Somewhat more say this about the GOP (63%) than the Democratic Party (57%).

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### Public Divided Over ‘Who Should Take the Lead’

*Who in Washington should take the lead in solving nation’s problems?*



Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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About six-in-ten say the Democratic Party “cares about the middle class” (60%) and “is tolerant and open to all groups of people” (59%). By comparison, 43% say the GOP cares about the middle class, and 35% say it is tolerant and open to all.

And while about as many say the Republican Party is too extreme (50%) as say it is not (46%), just 36% view the Democratic Party as too extreme; 59% say it is not. For the most part, opinions about the two parties’ traits are little changed from recent years.

The gap is much narrower when it comes to opinions about whether each party “has good policy ideas.” About half (52%) say the Democratic Party has good policy ideas while nearly as many (48%) say the same about the GOP.

And the Republican Party fares much better on issues than image. Despite the majority view that the GOP lacks empathy for the middle class, about as many Americans say the Republican Party (44%) as the Democratic Party (41%) can do better in dealing with the economy. On immigration the public also is divided: 45% say the Democrats can do better, while 43% prefer the GOP. The only issue on which Democrats have an edge is on health care (47% to 40%).

### Democrats Seen as Less Extreme, More Tolerant, Concerned with Middle Class

*% who say each party...*

		Rep Party	Dem Party	Gap
<i>Positive phrases</i>		%	%	
Has strong principles	Yes	63	57	R+6
	No	32	39	
Has good policy ideas	Yes	48	52	D+4
	No	46	43	
Cares about the middle class	Yes	43	60	D+17
	No	54	38	
Is tolerant and open to all groups of people	Yes	35	59	D+24
	No	62	38	
<i>Negative phrases</i>				
Is too extreme	Yes	50	36	R+14
	No	46	59	

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015. Don't know responses not shown.

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Republicans have opened substantial leads on dealing with the terrorist threat at home (20 points), making wise decisions about foreign policy (13 points) and dealing with taxes (11 points). On each of these issues, the GOP's lead is as wide—or wider—than at any point in the last several years.

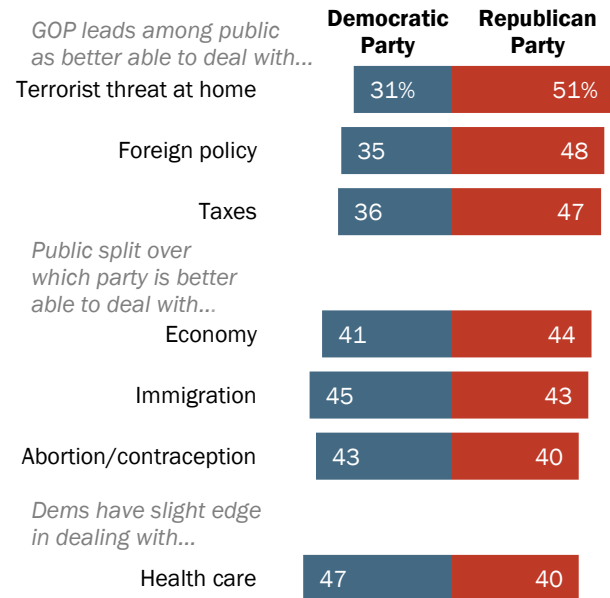
Views of the party best able to handle foreign policy have taken a particular turn in favor of the Republican Party: Today 48% say the GOP would do a better job on this issue, while 35% say the Democratic Party. This is the first time during the Obama administration that the GOP has held the edge on foreign policy.

The survey finds that opinions of the 2010 health care law – which will soon face a major challenge in the Supreme Court – remain little changed: Public opinion continues to be closely divided, with views somewhat more negative than positive (53% disapprove, 45% approve).

Americans remain split over the law's future: 50% say the law's major provisions are "probably here to stay" while 45% think they "will probably be eliminated." The divided views of the law's fate also are largely unchanged over the past year. In April 2014, 49% said the law was probably here to stay while 43% said it would probably be eliminated.

## Republicans Preferred on Dealing With Terrorism, Foreign Policy, Taxes

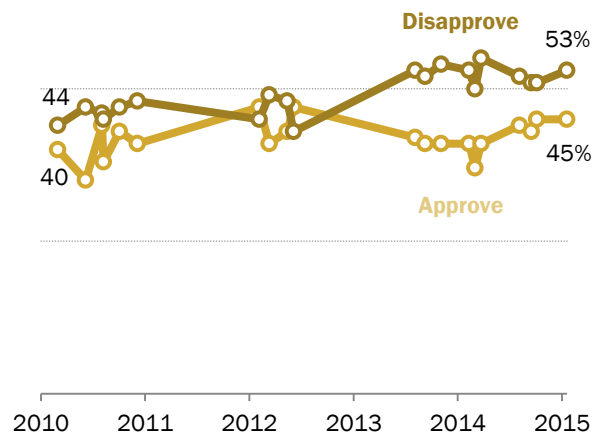
Which party could do a better job ...



Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015. Both/Neither/Don't know volunteered responses not shown.

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## No Change in Views of Health Care Law



Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015. Don't know responses not shown.

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## Half of Democrats Say GOP Has Strong Principles

Overall, large majorities of partisans say their own party has strong principles, good policy ideas, cares about the middle class and is tolerant and open to all groups of people—and few say it is “too extreme.” At the same time, positive views of the other party are relatively uncommon, but there are some notable exceptions.

For instance, on most positive characteristics, fewer than a quarter of Democrats offer positive evaluations of the GOP, but half (50%) of Democrats say the GOP has strong principles. By comparison, 35% of Republicans say the same of the Democratic Party.

And about a third of Republicans (33%) say that the Democratic Party is tolerant and open to all groups, while 36% say it cares about the middle class. Far fewer Democrats attribute either of these characteristics to the GOP; just 8% say the Republican Party is tolerant and 19% say it cares about the middle class.

Although majorities of both Democrats and Republicans say the other party is too extreme, fully 77% of Democrats say this about the GOP, while fewer Republicans (65%) say this about the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party also fares better than Republicans on this measure among independents: 54% say the GOP is too extreme, compared with 38% who describe the Democratic Party this way.

More independents also say the Democratic Party is tolerant and open (58% Democratic Party, 33% Republican Party), and concerned about the middle class (56% Democratic Party, 40% Republican Party). Majorities of independents say each party has strong principles, though somewhat more say this applies to the GOP (63%) than to the Democratic Party (54%).

### Few Positives About Opposing Party, but Different Strengths Emerge

*% who say each party...*

		Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
			%	%	%
<i>Positive phrases</i>					
Has strong principles	<b>Rep party</b>	63	85	50	63
	<b>Dem party</b>	57	35	81	54
Has good policy ideas	<b>Rep party</b>	48	85	22	49
	<b>Dem party</b>	52	17	84	51
Cares about the middle class	<b>Rep party</b>	43	80	19	40
	<b>Dem party</b>	60	36	87	56
Is tolerant and open to all groups of people	<b>Rep party</b>	35	74	8	33
	<b>Dem party</b>	59	33	84	58
<i>Negative phrases</i>					
Is too extreme	<b>Rep party</b>	50	15	77	54
	<b>Dem party</b>	36	65	12	38

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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When it comes to views of whether the two parties are concerned about the middle class, the Democratic Party is viewed similarly across all income categories. But there are bigger differences by income in opinions about whether the Republican Party cares about the middle class. By 54% to 44%, more people with family incomes of at least \$100,000 say the Republican Party cares about the middle class. But people in lower income groups have mixed views or say that description does not apply to the GOP.

### Those With Higher Incomes More Likely to Say GOP Cares About Middle Class

*% who say each party cares about the middle class ...*

	<b>Republican Party</b>		<b>Democratic Party</b>		<b>Diff in yes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Total	43	54	60	38	D+22
<i>Family income</i>					
\$100,000+	54	44	60	39	D+6
\$75,000-\$99,999	47	51	57	42	D+10
\$30,000-\$74,999	42	56	56	43	D+14
Less than \$30,000	35	60	63	33	D+28

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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## The Parties and Issues

The Republican Party has an advantage on several key issues, including terrorism and foreign policy, while Americans are divided about which party would do the best job on other key issues -- the economy and immigration. Democrats maintain a slim edge as the party better able to handle health care.

The Republican Party continues to hold a sizeable (20-point) lead as the party that could do a better job “dealing with the terrorist threat at home.” But today, the Republican Party also has a 13-point edge when it comes to “making wise decisions about foreign policy.” This is the first time the GOP has had a significant advantage on this issue since 2002. As recently as October, neither party had an edge on this measure.

Partisans’ views on this issue are little changed since the fall; fully 81% of Republicans say the GOP is best equipped to handle foreign policy, while a smaller majority of Democrats (66%) say their party could do the better job. But the opinions of independents have shifted in the direction of the GOP: Currently, the Republican Party has a 24-point advantage on foreign policy among independents (52% vs. 28%); in October independents were about evenly divided (36% Republican Party, 34% Democratic Party).

The GOP is also now seen by more as the party better able to handle taxes (47% vs. 36%); in January 2014, neither party had an advantage on this issue (41% each). Though the views of Republicans and Democrats on this question are little changed over the last year, the GOP now

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### Republican Party Opens Sizable Lead on Foreign Policy

*% saying each party could do a better job dealing with ...*

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/ Neither/ DK	Diff
<b>Terrorist threat at home</b>	%	%	%	
February 2015	51	31	18=100	R+20
October 2014	46	30	25=100	R+16
<b>Foreign policy</b>				
February 2015	48	35	17=100	R+13
October 2014	40	39	20=100	R+1
July 2014	43	39	18=100	R+4
<b>Taxes</b>				
February 2015	47	36	18=100	R+11
January 2014	41	41	17=100	Even
<b>Economy</b>				
February 2015	44	41	16=100	R+3
October 2014	41	39	20=100	R+2
January 2014	42	38	20=100	R+4
<b>Immigration</b>				
February 2015	43	45	11=100	D+2
October 2014	41	40	19=100	R+1
January 2014	38	39	22=100	D+1
<b>Abortion/contraception</b>				
February 2015	40	43	17=100	D+3
October 2014	35	45	17=100	D+10
<b>Health care</b>				
February 2015	40	47	13=100	D+7
October 2014	38	46	16=100	D+8
January 2014	37	45	18=100	D+8

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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enjoys a 27-point edge among independents (53% vs 26%); independents were more closely divided last year (43% said Republicans, 36% said Democrats).

The Democratic Party still holds a slight edge as the party that could do the better job on health care (40% say Republicans, 47% Democrats). The two parties continue to run about even in views of which party is better able to handle the overall economy (44% say the Republican Party, 41% the Democratic Party) and immigration (43% Republicans, 45% Democrats). The public is also divided over which party could do a better job regarding policies on abortion and contraception (40% say Republicans, 43% Democrats).

## Views of the Health Care Law, and its Future, Remain Polarized

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) remains highly polarizing. Although views of the 2010 health care law have not changed over the last several years, it continues to split the public overall, and Republicans and Democrats are largely on opposite sides of the issue.

Fully 87% of Republicans oppose the health care law while just 11% approve of it. And opposition to the law is most pronounced among conservative Republicans (92% disapprove).

Conversely, 78% of Democrats approve of the ACA (including 89% of liberal Democrats), and just 19% disapprove of it.

The balance of opinion among independents remains more negative than positive: 58% disapprove, while 39% approve.

As was the case last spring, the public is about evenly split in views about the future of the law: 50% say that the major provisions of the ACA are “probably here to stay,” and 45% think the major provisions “will probably be eliminated.” And while most Democrats say the provisions are here to stay (58% vs. 36% who say they will be eliminated), the balance of opinion among Republicans is reversed: 58% say the provisions will likely be eliminated, while 38% say they are here to stay.

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### ACA Remains Deeply Partisan; Public Divided Over Future of the Law

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>View of 2010 health care law</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	45	11	78	39
Disapprove	53	87	19	58
Don't know	3	1	3	2
	100	100	100	100

#### *Regardless of your view of ACA, its major provisions...*

Are probably here to stay	50	38	58	51
Will probably be eliminated	45	58	36	44
Don't know	6	4	5	5
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Ratings of Obama, Congressional Leadership

Barack Obama's job approval is little changed over the last month, with Americans about equally likely to say they approve of his job performance (48%) as disapprove (46%). But his current ratings reflect a shift in a positive direction from last year. Obama's rating among independents, in particular, has ticked higher in recent months; 45% of independents now approve of his job performance, similar to his rating last month (42%), but significantly higher than in December (39%) and throughout much of 2014.

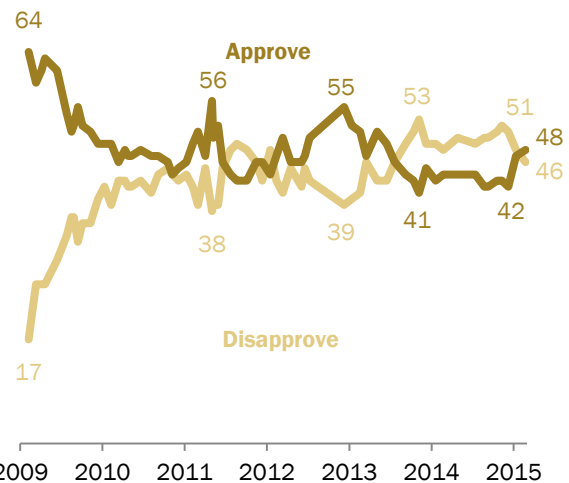
Ratings of the job performance of congressional leadership remain far less positive than those of the president, and—as in recent years—more Americans approve of the job being done by Democratic congressional leadership than Republican leaders.

Currently 36% approve of the job performance of Democratic leaders, while just 26% approve of Republican leaders. Both ratings are slightly higher than they were last spring.

Independents give the Democratic leadership higher marks (31% approve) than the Republican leadership (21% approve), but the comparatively lower ratings for the GOP's leaders also reflect the relatively low marks Republicans give their own leadership. Currently, just 50% of Republicans say they approve of the job performance of GOP leaders in Congress; by contrast, 64% of Democrats approve of their party's congressional leadership.

### Obama's Job Approval

*% who \_\_\_ of way Obama is handling his job*

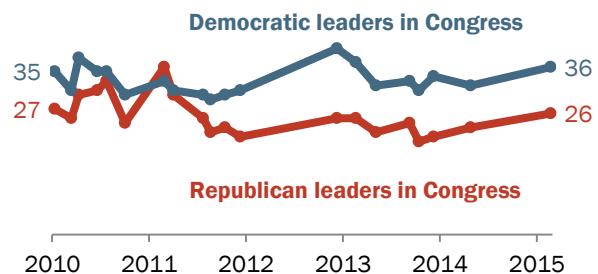


Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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### Views of Congressional Leaders

*% who approve of the way \_\_\_ are handling their job*



Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 18-22, 2015 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 (526 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 978 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 559 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. 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. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey 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 2014 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republican	399	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	440	5.4 percentage points
Independent	585	4.6 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 is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE***Pew Research Center, February 18-22, 2015*

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	Approve	Disapprove	(VOL.) DK/Ref	N
	%	%	%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	46	5	1504
<b>SEX</b>				
Men	46	49	5	817
Women	51	44	5	687
<b>AGE</b>				
18-49	56	39	5	647
50+	38	56	5	838
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>				
18-29	60	33	7	246
30-49	53	43	4	401
50-64	41	54	5	438
65+	35	60	5	400
<b>GENDER BY AGE</b>				
Men 18-49	51	43	6	393
Men 50+	38	57	4	416
Women 18-49	62	34	5	254
Women 50+	38	55	6	422
<b>RACE</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	36	59	5	1067
Black, non-Hispanic	87	6	7	134
Hispanic	68	30	3	191
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
College grad+	52	44	4	624
Some college	50	46	4	411
High school or less	44	48	7	464
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>				
\$75,000+	41	56	3	463
\$30,000-\$74,999	46	50	4	495
Less than \$30,000	58	33	8	419
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>				
Total Protestants	39	55	6	669
White NH evang. Prot.	16	79	6	290
White NH mainline Prot.	36	56	7	207
Total Catholic	49	49	2	344
White NH Cath.	34	63	3	210
Unaffiliated	64	29	7	359
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>				
Weekly or more	40	55	5	537
Less than weekly	53	42	5	954
<b>REGION</b>				
Northeast	49	44	7	247
Midwest	46	48	6	346
South	45	49	5	569
West	54	43	3	342

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)***Pew Research Center, February 18-22, 2015*

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>				
Yes, certain	44	52	4	1154
Not registered	58	34	8	350
<b>PARTY ID</b>				
Republican	11	87	2	399
Democrat	82	12	5	440
Independent	45	50	5	585
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>				
Rep/Lean Rep	13	84	3	679
Dem/Lean Dem	82	14	5	688
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative	23	73	4	585
Moderate	53	41	6	526
Liberal	81	14	6	348
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative Republican	6	92	2	290
Mod/Lib Republican	23	75	2	104
Mod/Cons Democrat	74	19	7	236
Liberal Democrat	93	4	3	190
<b>TEA PARTY AGREEMENT AMONG REP/REP LEANERS</b>				
Agree	3	95	2	250
Disagree/No opinion	19	78	4	424
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>				
Men	36	60	4	576
Women	37	57	6	491
18-49	45	51	5	379
50+	28	66	6	674
College grad+	45	52	3	488
Some college or less	32	62	6	576
Male college grad+	45	53	2	275
Female college grad+	45	51	5	213
Male some college or less	32	63	6	301
Female some college or less	33	60	7	275
\$75,000+	36	62	2	376
\$30,000-\$74,999	34	61	5	365
Less than \$30,000	43	48	9	226
Republican	6	92	2	346
Democrat	78	15	7	263
Independent	34	61	5	416
Northeast	40	56	4	186
Midwest	42	52	6	283
South	27	67	5	376
West	41	54	5	222

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT APPROVAL TABLE***Pew Research Center, February 18-22, 2015*

Q62: Do you approve or disapprove of the health care law passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?

	(VOL.)			N
	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK/Ref %	
<b>TOTAL</b>	45	53	3	1504
<b>SEX</b>				
Men	43	54	3	817
Women	46	51	2	687
<b>AGE</b>				
18-49	50	48	2	647
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**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)***Pew Research Center, February 18-22, 2015*

Q62: Do you approve or disapprove of the health care law passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>				
Yes, certain	43	55	2	1154
Not registered	49	47	3	350
<b>PARTY ID</b>				
Republican	11	87	1	399
Democrat	78	19	3	440
Independent	39	58	2	585
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>				
Rep/Lean Rep	13	86	1	679
Dem/Lean Dem	75	23	3	688
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative	22	75	2	585
Moderate	49	48	3	526
Liberal	74	23	2	348
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative Republican	7	92	1	290
Mod/Lib Republican	23	76	1	104
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FEBRUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015  
N=1,504**

**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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- Approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- Approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	5	Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8
Jan 7-11, 2015	47	48	5	Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	42	51	6	May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10
Nov 6-9, 2014	43	52	5	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
Oct 15-20, 2014	43	51	6	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
Sep 2-9, 2014	42	50	8	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

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



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

Q.2 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
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	December, 2008	13	83	4
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	August, 2008	21	74	5
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	July, 2008	19	74	7
Jan 15-19, 2014	26	69	5	June, 2008	19	76	5
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5	March, 2008	22	72	6
Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5	October, 2007	28	66	6
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4	February, 2007	30	61	9
Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	Early January, 2007	30	63	7
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	December, 2006	28	65	7
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	July, 2006	30	65	5
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6	May, 2006*	29	65	6
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	March, 2006	32	63	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	January, 2006	34	61	5
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	July, 2005	35	58	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	February, 2005	38	56	6
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	January, 2005	40	54	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	December, 2004	39	54	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	July, 2004	38	55	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	October, 2003	38	56	6
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	January, 2003	44	50	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	November, 2002	41	48	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	May, 2002	44	44	12
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	March, 2001	47	45	8
				February, 2001	46	43	11
				January, 2001	55	41	4
				October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
				September, 2000	51	41	8

<sup>1</sup> 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.2 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2000	47	45	8	October, 1995	23	73	4
April, 2000	48	43	9	June, 1995	25	73	2
August, 1999	56	39	5	April, 1995	23	74	3
January, 1999	53	41	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
November, 1998	46	44	10	March, 1994	24	71	5
Early September, 1998	54	42	4	October, 1993	22	73	5
Late August, 1998	55	41	4	September, 1993	20	75	5
Early August, 1998	50	44	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
February, 1998	59	37	4	January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1998	46	50	4	January, 1992	28	68	4
September, 1997	45	49	6	November, 1991	34	61	5
August, 1997	49	46	5	<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
January, 1997	38	58	4	August, 1990	47	48	5
July, 1996	29	67	4	May, 1990	41	54	5
March, 1996	28	70	2	January, 1989	45	50	5
				September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4****ASK ALL:**

- Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Feb 18-22, 2015	26	66	8
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	23	68	10
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	21	72	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	20	72	8
Sep 4-8, 2013	24	68	8
May 1-5, 2013	22	68	10
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	25	67	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	25	67	8
Dec 7-11, 2011	21	68	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	23	67	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	22	69	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Jan 5-9, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	34	43	22
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11

<sup>2</sup> Question wording for Nov. 4-7, 2010, and Jan. 5-9, 2011, was: "Do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

## Q.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
December, 1996 <sup>3</sup>	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10

<sup>3</sup> From December, 1994 through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?"

**Q.5 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	58	7
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	32	60	8
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	34	58	8
Oct 9-13, 2013	31	62	7
Sep 4-8, 2013	33	59	7
May 1-5, 2013	32	59	9
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	37	55	8
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	53	7
Dec 7-11, 2011	31	58	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	61	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	63	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
November, 2006 <sup>5</sup>	50	21	29
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20

<sup>4</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

<sup>5</sup> Question wording in November, 2006 and December, 1994 was: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

**Q.5 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

**NO QUESTIONS 6-7****ASK ALL:**

Q.8 Who in Washington do you think should take the lead in solving the nation's problems — President Obama, or the Republican congressional leaders?

	President <u>Obama</u>	Rep <u>leaders</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both/Neither/ Work together</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	40	38	17	5
Nov 6-9, 2014	40	41	16	3
November, 2010	49	30	16	5

	President <u>Bush</u>	Dem <u>leaders</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both/Neither/ Work together</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
November, 2006	29	51	14	6

	President <u>Clinton</u>	Rep <u>leaders</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both/Neither/ Work together</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
November, 1998	49	26	16	9
September, 1998	47	32	12	9
February, 1997	48	29	14	9
November, 1996	45	30	19	6
March, 1996	47	36	9	8
April, 1995	48	36	12	4
March, 1995	40	40	10	10
February, 1995	40	38	16	6
December, 1994	39	43	10	8

**NO QUESTIONS 9-10, 12, 14-15****QUESTIONS 11a-b, 11d HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTIONS 11c, 13 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****RANDOMIZE Q.16 AND Q.17****ASK ALL:**

Now I have a few questions about the political parties...

[First,]

Q.16 The Republican Party. Do you think the Republican Party **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Is too extreme			
Feb 18-22, 2015	50	46	4
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	52	43	5
Jul 17-21, 2013	48	46	6
Feb 13-18, 2013	52	42	5

**Q.16 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>				
<i>Please tell me whether you think each of the following description applies or does not apply to the Republican Party ... too extreme</i>				
<i>CNN/Gallup: February, 1999</i>				
		56	42	3
b.	Has strong principles			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	63	32	5
	Jul 17-21, 2013	60	33	7
	Feb 13-18, 2013	63	30	7
c.	Is tolerant and open to all groups of people			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	35	62	3
	Jul 17-21, 2013	33	62	6
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>				
<i>Please tell me if you think it describes or does not describe the Republican Party ... Is tolerant and open to all groups of people</i>				
<i>NBC News/Wall Street Journal: August, 1996 (RVs)</i>				
		31	62	7
d.	Cares about the middle class			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	43	54	3
	Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	42	54	4
e.	Has good policy ideas			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	6

**RANDOMIZE Q.16 AND Q.17****ASK ALL:**

[Now thinking about...]

Q.17 The Democratic Party. Do you think the Democratic Party **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Is too extreme			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	36	59	4
	Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	39	56	5
	Jul 17-21, 2013	41	54	5
	Feb 13-18, 2013	39	56	6
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>				
<i>Please tell me whether you think each of the following descriptions applies or does not apply to the Democratic Party ... too extreme</i>				
<i>CNN/Gallup: February, 1999</i>				
		39	57	3
b.	Has strong principles			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	57	39	4
	Jul 17-21, 2013	52	42	7
	Feb 13-18, 2013	57	37	6
c.	Is tolerant and open to all groups of people			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	59	38	3
	Jul 17-21, 2013	60	35	5
d.	Cares about the middle class			
	Feb 18-22, 2015	60	38	2
	Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	57	38	4

**Q.17 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
e. Has good policy ideas Feb 18-22, 2015	52	43	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas. First, which party could do a better job of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Which party could do a better job of ITEM?]**

	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>(VOL.) Both equally</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Dealing with the economy					
Feb 18-22, 2015	44	41	7	6	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	41	39	6	8	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	47	39	4	6	4
Jan 15-19, 2014	42	38	10	7	3
Oct 9-13, 2013	44	37	5	9	5
May 1-5, 2013	42	38	6	8	6
May 25-30, 2011	38	40	5	8	8
Sep 16-19, 2010	38	37	8	10	8
May 20-23, 2010	33	34	9	14	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	41	7	6	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	32	42	6	12	9
February, 2008	34	53	2	5	6
October, 2006	32	45	4	5	14
September, 2006	32	46	5	5	12
February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8
Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6
July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13
Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13
January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18
May, 2001 <sup>6</sup>	33	44	8	5	10
June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9
March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9
Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10
March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5
October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10
Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9
Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=755]:**

b.F1 Dealing with immigration					
Feb 18-22, 2015	43	45	4	4	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	41	40	5	7	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	42	40	4	7	6
Jan 15-19, 2014	38	39	8	8	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	40	39	4	8	9
May 1-5, 2013	38	38	7	8	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	35	44	5	6	10
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	45	37	3	6	9
May 25-30, 2011	39	37	4	9	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	9	12	16
May 20-23, 2010	35	27	10	14	14
Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12

<sup>6</sup> In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous."

## Q.18 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11
c.F1 Dealing with the terrorist threat at home					
Feb 18-22, 2015	51	31	10	5	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	46	30	9	7	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	38	26	13	9	14
May 20-23, 2010	38	27	12	10	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	29	10	5	10
Aug 27-30, 2009	38	32	10	9	12
February, 2008	45	38	6	4	7
October, 2006	39	33	7	6	15
September, 2006	41	32	7	6	14
February, 2006	46	30	8	7	9
Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8
July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16
Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14
January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28
d.F1 Dealing with health care					
Feb 18-22, 2015	40	47	4	7	2
Oct 15-20, 2014	38	46	3	7	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	40	45	4	6	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	37	45	3	6	8
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	40	39	6	9	5
Dec 5-9, 2012	38	48	4	4	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	36	46	5	7	6
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	49	1	7	8
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	38	49	3	4	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	42	6	5	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	32	39	5	11	13
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	45	6	10	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	46	4	14	9
February, 2008	26	56	3	8	7
October, 2006	25	46	4	8	17
September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13
February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7
July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13
Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15
<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16
January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12
March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8
October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10
July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8



**Q.18 CONTINUED...**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
<i>Reforming health care</i>						
December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18	
<i>Improving health care in the U.S.</i>						
January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15	
May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14	
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=749]:</b>						
e.F2	Making wise decisions about foreign policy					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	48	35	6	6	5
	Oct 15-20, 2014	40	39	6	9	7
	Jul 8-14, 2014	43	39	5	7	6
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	38	10	4	7
	Apr 21-26, 2010	39	34	8	8	11
	August 27-30, 2009	31	44	7	8	9
	February, 2008	40	45	4	4	7
	July, 2004	38	40	4	4	14
	Early September, 2002	40	30	10	6	14
	May, 2001	39	34	11	3	13
	June, 1999	37	36	7	6	14
	March, 1999	42	37	6	4	11
	Early September, 1998	40	31	11	5	13
	March, 1998	41	33	12	4	10
	October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11
	July, 1994 <sup>7</sup>	51	31	4	6	8
	December, 1993	49	23	--	10	18
	May, 1990	39	28	--	17	16
f.F2	Dealing with taxes					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	47	36	6	6	6
	Jan 15-19, 2014	41	41	4	6	7
	Jan 9-13, 2013	38	44	5	6	6
	Dec 5-9, 2012	37	45	6	4	7
	Jul 20-24, 2011	43	40	4	6	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	35	7	9	12
	Sep 16-19, 2010	40	34	8	8	9
	Aug 27-30, 2009	38	37	4	11	11
	February, 2008	37	49	2	5	7
	October, 2006	32	40	5	7	16
	September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9
g.F2	Dealing with policies on abortion and contraception					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	40	43	3	7	7
	Oct 15-20, 2014	35	45	4	5	11
	Jul 8-14, 2014	36	48	3	6	7

**NO QUESTIONS 19-24, 30-50, 55, 57, 60-61****QUESTIONS 25-29, 51a, 51c, 52-54, 56, 58F1-59F2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>7</sup> In July 1994 and May 1990, the item was worded "Making wise decisions about the country's defense policies."

**QUESTION 51b PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.62 Do you approve or disapprove of the health care law passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	45	53	3
Nov 6-9, 2014	45	51	4
Oct 15-20, 2014	43	51	5
Sep 2-9, 2014	44	52	4
Apr 23-27, 2014	41	55	4
Apr 3-6, 2014 (U)	37	50	12
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	41	53	5
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	41	54	5
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	52	7
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	42	53	5
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012 <sup>8</sup>	47	43	9
Jun 7-17, 2012	43	48	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	41	49	10
Mar 7-11, 2012	47	45	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	41	48	11
Nov 4-7, 2010	43	47	10
Sep 9-12, 2010	38	45	17
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	44	46	10
Jul 8-11, 2010	35	47	17
Apr 1-5, 2010	40	44	16

**ASK ALL:**

Q.63 Regardless of your opinion of the health care law, do you think the major provisions of the law are probably here to stay, or do you think they will probably be eliminated? **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: If necessary, probe to clarify that this is what respondent *thinks* will happen, not what they *want* to see happen]**

<u>Feb 18-22</u> <u>2015</u>	(U) <u>Apr 23-27</u> <u>2014</u>
50	49
45	43
6	8
Probably here to stay	Probably here to stay
Will probably be eliminated	Will probably be eliminated
Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 64-65, 69, 72-73, 77, 79****QUESTIONS 66-68, 70-71, 74-76 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 78, 80 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>8</sup> Prior to September 2013, the question asked about "the health care legislation." In addition, the reference to when the law was passed has changed over time: January 2011 referenced the legislation passed "last year," November 2010 used "earlier this year," September through July, 2010 used "in March," and April 2010 used "last month."

**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
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
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
<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
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=679]:**

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
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, 2012	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	--
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>9</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--

<sup>9</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."

**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>
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

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls