

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
SEPTEMBER 22-27, 2015  
N=1,502**

**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]**

	Approve	Dis- approve	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Approve	Dis- approve	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Sep 22-27, 2015	46	48	5	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	45	7	Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7
May 12-18, 2015	46	48	6	Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8
Mar 25-29, 2015	46	47	7	Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8
Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	5	May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10
Jan 7-11, 2015	47	48	5	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	42	51	6	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
Nov 6-9, 2014	43	52	5	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Oct 15-20, 2014	43	51	6	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Sep 2-9, 2014	42	50	8	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	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- <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>
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	69	4	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	64	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
May 12-18, 2015	29	67	4	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Mar 25-29, 2015	31	64	5	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	December, 2008	13	83	4
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	August, 2008	21	74	5
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	July, 2008	19	74	7
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	June, 2008	19	76	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	26	69	5	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3	March, 2008	22	72	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5	October, 2007	28	66	6
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5	February, 2007	30	61	9
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7	Early January, 2007	30	63	7
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	December, 2006	28	65	7
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	July, 2006	30	65	5
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	May, 2006*	29	65	6
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6	March, 2006	32	63	5
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	January, 2006	34	61	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	July, 2005	35	58	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	February, 2005	38	56	6
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	January, 2005	40	54	6
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	December, 2004	39	54	7
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	July, 2004	38	55	7
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	May, 2004	33	61	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	December, 2003	44	47	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	October, 2003	38	56	6
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	August, 2003	40	53	7
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	January, 2003	44	50	6
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	November, 2002	41	48	11
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	September, 2002	41	55	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	May, 2002	44	44	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	March, 2002	50	40	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7				
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7				

<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>
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	January, 1997	38	58	4
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
June, 2001	43	52	5	March, 1996	28	70	2
March, 2001	47	45	8	October, 1995	23	73	4
February, 2001	46	43	11	June, 1995	25	73	2
January, 2001	55	41	4	April, 1995	23	74	3
October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7	July, 1994	24	73	3
September, 2000	51	41	8	March, 1994	24	71	5
June, 2000	47	45	8	October, 1993	22	73	5
April, 2000	48	43	9	September, 1993	20	75	5
August, 1999	56	39	5	May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1999	53	41	6	January, 1993	39	50	11
November, 1998	46	44	10	January, 1992	28	68	4
Early September, 1998	54	42	4	November, 1991	34	61	5
Late August, 1998	55	41	4	<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
Early August, 1998	50	44	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
September, 1997	45	49	6	May, 1990	41	54	5
February, 1998	59	37	4	January, 1989	45	50	5
January, 1998	46	50	4	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
August, 1997	49	46	5				

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 10, 12, 14-19****QUESTIONS 5, 7-9, 11 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 6, 13 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.20 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2016?  
[READ]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 22-27, 2015	39	26	17	17	1
May 12-18, 2015	25	33	21	20	1
Mar 25-29, 2015	22	28	26	23	1

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:****2012 Presidential Election**

Feb 8-12, 2012 <sup>2</sup>	44	25	16	13	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	27	19	16	1
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	30	18	19	1
Nov 9-14, 2011	36	26	21	15	1
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	29	29	22	19	2
Aug 17-21, 2011	27	30	23	18	1
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	29	27	23	1
May 25-30, 2011	23	30	27	19	1

**2008 Presidential Election**

February, 2008	48	29	10	11	2
January, 2008	44	32	11	11	2
December, 2007	35	33	13	18	1
November, 2007	34	35	16	14	1
October, 2007	30	37	17	14	2

<sup>2</sup> In 2011 and 2012, question read: "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2012?" In 2006, 2007 and 2008, question read "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2008?"

**Q.20 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2007	27	33	21	17	2
July, 2007	30	38	16	15	1
June, 2007	29	34	20	16	1
April, 2007	26	34	21	17	2
March, 2007	24	36	20	18	2
February, 2007	24	34	22	18	2
December, 2006	23	36	20	20	1

**NO QUESTIONS 21-26****RANDOMIZE Q.27 AND Q.28****ASK ALL:**

Q.27 Overall, what's your impression of the possible candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,136]:**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2016 Election</b>					
Sep 22-27, 2015	8	26	30	33	2
May 12-18, 2015	5	26	36	27	5
<b>2012 Election</b>					
Mar 7-11, 2012	4	25	34	34	3
Jan 26-29, 2012	4	21	37	34	5
Jan 4-8, 2012	3	27	35	27	7
Nov 9-14, 2011	5	23	36	28	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	4	22	38	26	9
May 25-30, 2011	3	22	36	23	15

**Q.27 FULL TREND:**

*Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?*

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=566]:**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2016 Election</b>					
Sep 22-27, 2015	15	44	29	10	2
May 12-18, 2015	11	46	32	8	3
<b>2012 Election</b>					
Mar 7-11, 2012	6	43	39	9	2
Jan 26-29, 2012	8	38	40	12	2
Jan 4-8, 2012	5	46	34	10	6
Nov 9-14, 2011	10	38	39	7	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	9	40	38	6	7
May 25-30, 2011	5	39	36	7	13
<b>2008 Election</b>					
February, 2008	10	50	31	7	2
January, 2008	11	57	28	3	1
November, 2007	9	47	34	7	3
October, 2007 <sup>3</sup>	5	46	36	7	6

<sup>3</sup> Before October 2007, answer choice read "Fair" not "Only fair." In October 2007 the question was asked both ways and no difference was found. As a result, October 2007 numbers combine both versions of the question. In 1988, 1991 and 1993 question asked about "men running for the [party] presidential nomination."

**Q.27 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2007	8	41	36	8	6
<b>1996 Election</b>					
October, 1995	5	46	40	6	3
<b>1988 Election</b>					
January, 1988 (GP)	6	50	35	4	5

**RANDOMIZE Q.27 AND Q.28****ASK ALL:**

Q.28 Overall, what's your impression of the possible candidates running for the DEMOCRATIC presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,136]:**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2016 Election</b>					
Sep 22-27, 2015	7	22	32	38	2
May 12-18, 2015	7	27	30	30	5

**Q.28 FULL TREND:**

Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the DEMOCRATIC presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=473]:**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2016 Election</b>					
Sep 22-27, 2015	14	37	36	12	2
May 12-18, 2015	12	42	33	8	5
<b>2008 Election</b>					
February, 2008	30	50	16	2	2
January, 2008	28	50	18	2	2
November, 2007	16	51	28	2	3
October, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	16	48	26	5	5
September, 2007	15	49	29	2	5
<b>2004 Election</b>					
January, 2004	8	39	41	6	8
December, 2003	5	40	39	7	9
September, 2003	4	40	39	5	12
<b>1992 Election</b>					
February, 1992	6	39	47	4	5
October, 1991	3	24	38	11	23
<b>1988 Election</b>					
January, 1988 (GP)	4	33	45	11	7

**NO QUESTIONS 29-32**

<sup>4</sup> Before October 2007, answer choice read "Fair" not "Only fair." In October 2007 the question was asked both ways and no difference was found. As a result, October 2007 numbers combine both versions of the question. In 1988, 1991 and 1993 question asked about "men running for the [party] presidential nomination."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 If there is a primary election or caucus in your state next year, how likely is it that you will vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary for President? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Sep 22-27

2015

63	Very likely
14	Somewhat likely
6	Not too likely
14	Not at all likely
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*If there is a primary election or caucus in your state early next year, how likely is it that you will vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary for President? **[READ IN ORDER]***

<u>Oct</u>		<u>Sept</u>	<u>Feb</u>
<u>2007</u>		<u>2007</u> <sup>5</sup>	<u>2000</u> <sup>6</sup>
59	Very likely	56	60
18	Somewhat likely	19	18
5	Not too likely	6	7
12	Not all all likely	13	11
1	No primary <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	3

**ASK IF AT LEAST 'NOT TOO LIKELY' (Q.33=1-3) [N=1,303]:**

Q.34 As of today, are you more likely to vote in the Republican or the Democratic primary or caucus for President? **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: If R says that they live in a state with an open primary, ask: "Which party's primary are you most likely to vote in? The Republican or the Democratic primary or caucus for President?"]**

Sep 22-27

2015

46	Republican
44	Democratic
10	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 If there is a primary election or caucus in your state next year, how likely is it that you will vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary for President? **[READ IN ORDER]**

**ASK IF AT LEAST 'NOT TOO LIKELY' (Q.33=1-3) [N=1,303]:**

Q.34 As of today, are you more likely to vote in the Republican or the Democratic primary or caucus for President? **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: If R says that they live in a state with an open primary, ask: "Which party's primary are you most likely to vote in? The Republican or the Democratic primary or caucus for President?"]**

Sep 22-27

2015

84	NET Likely
39	Republican
37	Democratic
8	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
14	Not at all likely
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>5</sup> The word "either" was omitted to the question in September 2007.

<sup>6</sup> In February 2000, the question read, "If there is a primary election in your state this year, how likely is it that you will vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary for president?"

**ASK IF MAY VOTE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY OR CAUCUS (Q.34=1)**

Q.35 Thinking about the 2016 presidential election, who would be your first choice for the Republican nomination for president? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ; RECORD ONLY ONE MENTION. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS: IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW, PROBE IF IT IS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME OR IF NOT SURE YET – ACCEPT THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW YET AS 98, DO NOT PROBE MORE. IF CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME, BUT PROVIDE DESCRIPTIONS, RECORD IN 96]**

**IF GAVE RESPONSE IN Q.35 (Q.35=1-96) [N=455]:**

Q.35a And who would be your second choice for the Republican nomination for president? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ; RECORD UP TO TWO MENTIONS, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS: IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW, PROBE IF IT IS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME OR IF NOT SURE YET – ACCEPT THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW YET AS 98, DO NOT PROBE MORE. IF CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME, BUT PROVIDE DESCRIPTIONS, RECORD IN 96]**

**BASED ON REP AND REP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WHO MAY VOTE IN PRIMARY OR CAUCUS [N=496]:**

Sep 22-27, 2015

<u>First choice</u>	<u>Any choice<sup>7</sup></u>	
25	32	Donald Trump
16	32	Ben Carson
8	17	Marco Rubio
8	23	Carly Fiorina
6	13	Ted Cruz
4	8	Jeb Bush
2	5	Mike Huckabee
2	3	Rand Paul
1	2	John Kasich
1	2	Chris Christie
1	1	Lindsey Graham
*	1	Bobby Jindal
*	*	Rick Santorum
0	*	George Pataki
0	0	Jim Gilmore
1	1	Other <b>(VOL.)</b>
6	6	None <b>(VOL.)</b>
17	17	Don't know—Not sure yet <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	2	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>7</sup> Adds to greater than 100 because of multiple responses.

**ASK IF MAY VOTE IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY OR CAUCUS (Q.34=2)**

Q.36 Thinking about the 2016 presidential election, who would be your first choice for the Democratic nomination for president? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ; RECORD ONLY ONE MENTION.] [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS: IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW, PROBE IF IT IS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME OR IF NOT SURE YET – ACCEPT THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW YET AS 98, DO NOT PROBE MORE. IF CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME, BUT PROVIDE DESCRIPTIONS, RECORD IN 96]**

**IF GAVE RESPONSE IN Q.36 (Q.36=1-96) [N=423]:**

Q.36a And who would be your second choice for the Democratic nomination for president? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ; RECORD UP TO TWO MENTIONS, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS: IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW, PROBE IF IT IS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME OR IF NOT SURE YET – ACCEPT THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW YET AS 98, DO NOT PROBE MORE. IF CAN'T REMEMBER A NAME, BUT PROVIDE DESCRIPTIONS, RECORD IN 96]**

**BASED ON DEM AND DEM-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WHO MAY VOTE IN PRIMARY OR CAUCUS [N=387]:**

Sep 22-27, 2015

<u>First choice</u>	<u>Any choice<sup>8</sup></u>	
45	69	Hillary Clinton
24	39	Bernie Sanders
8	23	Joe Biden
*	*	Jim Webb
*	1	Martin O'Malley
*	1	Lincoln Chafee
1	4	Other <b>(VOL.)</b>
5	5	None <b>(VOL.)</b>
15	15	Don't know—Not sure yet <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	1	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 37-38**

<sup>8</sup> Adds to greater than 100 because of multiple responses.



**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 Which of the following is more important to you in a presidential candidate? **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 22-27 <u>2015</u>		Mar 25-29 <u>2015</u>
36	Experience and a proven record	47
57	New ideas and a different approach	45
5	Both <b>(VOL.)</b>	5
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3

**NO QUESTIONS 40-44****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about some issues ...

Q.45 In making your decision about who to vote for in the 2016 presidential election, will the issue of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: How important will the issue of [ITEM] be to you in making your decision about who to vote for in the 2016 presidential election?] [INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RE-READ RESPONSE OPTIONS AS NECESSARY TO REMIND RESPONDENTS OF OPTIONS. IF RESPONDENT VOICES THEIR SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION TO AN ISSUE, CLARIFY: "this question is not about your position on each issue, just how important each issue will be to your vote."]**

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,136]:**

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The economy					
Sep 22-27, 2015	83	15	1	1	*
Sep 2-9, 2014 <sup>9</sup>	83	15	1	1	*
Sep 12-16, 2012	87	11	1	1	*
Apr 4-15, 2012	86	11	1	1	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	90	9	1	*	*
Mid-October, 2008	91	7	2	*	*
August, 2008	87	12	1	*	*
Late May, 2008	88	9	1	1	1
October, 2007	79	18	1	1	1
June, 2007	74	22	2	1	1
Mid-October, 2004	78	18	3	1	*
August, 2004	76	22	1	1	*
b. Health care					
Sep 22-27, 2015	73	22	3	1	*
Sep 2-9, 2014	77	18	3	2	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	74	20	3	2	1
Apr 4-15, 2012	74	19	5	2	*
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	78	17	3	1	*
Mid-October, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
August, 2008	73	21	5	1	*
Late May, 2008	78	17	3	2	*
October, 2007	76	18	4	1	1
June, 2007	71	23	4	2	*
Mid-October, 2004	73	22	4	1	*
August, 2004	72	21	5	2	*

9 In all 2014 and 2010 trends, the question read "As you think about the elections for Congress this November, how important are each of the following issues to you. Is the issue of **[INSERT ITEM]** very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: As you think about the elections for Congress this November, is the issue of [ITEM] very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important to you?]**"

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
c.	Abortion					
	Sep 22-27, 2015	41	31	13	12	2
	Sep 2-9, 2014	46	24	11	16	3
	Sep 12-16, 2012	46	24	13	14	3
	Apr 4-15, 2012	39	25	14	18	4
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	43	24	13	17	3
	Mid-October, 2008	41	29	16	12	2
	August, 2008	39	26	17	15	3
	Late May, 2008	40	27	15	15	3
	October, 2007	39	26	17	13	5
	June, 2007	40	30	13	14	3
	Mid-October, 2004	47	27	12	11	3
	August, 2004	45	25	13	14	3
d.	Foreign policy					
	Sep 22-27, 2015	64	29	3	2	1
	Sep 2-9, 2014	64	26	4	4	2
	Sep 12-16, 2012	60	31	5	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	52	38	6	2	2
<b>NO ITEM e.</b>						
f.	The federal budget deficit					
	Sep 22-27, 2015	68	23	5	3	1
	Sep 2-9, 2014	65	25	5	3	2
	Sep 12-16, 2012	68	23	6	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	74	19	4	2	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	69	22	5	2	2
	Late May, 2008	69	21	4	3	3
	October, 2007	61	28	8	1	2
	Mid-October, 2004	57	32	7	3	1
	August, 2004	55	35	7	3	*
g.	Immigration					
	Sep 22-27, 2015	59	31	6	3	*
	Sep 2-9, 2014	62	28	5	5	1
	Sep 12-16, 2012	41	37	13	6	2
	Apr 4-15, 2012	42	35	15	6	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	58	29	8	4	1
	Mid-October, 2008	49	32	13	5	1
	August, 2008	52	33	10	4	1
	Late May, 2008	54	32	9	3	2
	October, 2007	56	31	7	4	2
	June, 2007	54	34	7	3	2
h.	Terrorism					
	Sep 22-27, 2015	71	20	6	2	1
	Sep 2-9, 2014	75	17	4	3	1
	Sep 12-16, 2012	60	27	7	4	2
	Apr 4-15, 2012	59	25	9	5	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	71	18	6	3	1
	Mid-October, 2008	69	20	7	3	1
	August, 2008	72	20	5	2	1
	Late May, 2008	68	23	6	2	1
	October, 2007	69	22	5	3	1
	June, 2007	69	24	4	2	1
	Mid-October, 2004	77	17	3	2	1
	August, 2004	75	19	3	2	1

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
i.	The environment					
	Sep 22-27, 2015	55	31	10	4	1
	Sep 2-9, 2014	54	32	9	5	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	57	33	7	3	1
	Mid-October, 2008	57	31	8	3	1
	August, 2008	59	31	6	3	1
	Late May, 2008	62	27	8	3	*
	October, 2007	58	31	8	2	1
	June, 2007	55	36	6	3	*
	Mid-October, 2004	53	37	7	2	1
	August, 2004	55	35	7	3	*

**ASK IF MAY VOTE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY OR CAUCUS (Q.34=1)**

Now a different kind of question...

Q.46 Thinking about the kind of candidate the Republican Party should nominate for president next year, would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for the Republican nomination who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or is this not a major factor in your vote? How about if a candidate **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for the Republican nomination for President who **[ITEM]**, or is this not a major factor in your vote?]**

**BASED ON REP AND REP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WHO MAY VOTE IN PRIMARY OR CAUCUS [N=496]:**

		More likely <u>to support</u>	Less likely <u>to support</u>	Not a major <u>factor in vote</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Wants to end the nuclear agreement with Iran				
	Sep 22-27, 2015	69	14	14	4
b.	Wants to deport all immigrants now living in the U.S. illegally				
	Sep 22-27, 2015	43	29	24	4
c.	Wants to raise taxes on wealthy Americans				
	Sep 22-27, 2015	31	34	34	2
d.	Wants to end federal funding for Planned Parenthood				
	Sep 22-27, 2015	56	18	23	2
e.	Wants to send U.S. ground troops to fight ISIS in Iraq and Syria				
	Sep 22-27, 2015	53	22	21	4
f.	Will compromise with members of the Democratic Party				
	Sep 22-27, 2015	41	27	27	5

**ASK IF MAY VOTE IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY OR CAUCUS (Q.34=2)**

Now a different kind of question...

Q.47 Thinking about the kind of candidate the Democratic Party should nominate for president next year, would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for the Democratic nomination who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or is this not a major factor in your vote? How about if a candidate **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** Would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President who **[ITEM]**, or is this not a major factor in your vote?]

**BASED ON DEM AND DEM-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WHO MAY VOTE IN PRIMARY OR CAUCUS [N=387]:**

	More likely to support	Less likely to support	Not a major factor in vote	<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
a. Wants to cut the size of large banks and financial institutions Sep 22-27, 2015	48	16	33	3
b. Wants to expand U.S. trade agreements with other nations Sep 22-27, 2015	45	19	34	2
c. Backs the nuclear agreement with Iran Sep 22-27, 2015	41	27	25	6
d. Will compromise with members of the Republican Party Sep 22-27, 2015	60	14	23	2
e. Will offer policies and programs similar to those of the Obama administration Sep 22-27, 2015	61	12	26	2

**NO QUESTIONS 48-50, 53, 60-61, 65-76****QUESTIONS 51-52, 54-57 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 58-59, 62-64 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Sep 22-27, 2015	26	30	40	2	*	2	15	16
Jul 14-20, 2015	22	32	41	4	*	1	15	19
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
<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=406]:**

	<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>
Sep 25-27, 2015 <sup>10</sup>	28	11	58	2	1	--
May 12-18, 2015	34	13	51	1	*	--
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	11	52	1	1	--
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
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	--
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	--

<sup>10</sup> Question asked September 25-27, N=406.

**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>
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>11</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [(PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) AND REG=1]**

Q.77 If you had to choose, which would be more important to you in deciding who to support in the Republican presidential primary [READ]

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=566]:**

<u>Sep 22-27 2015</u>		<u>Nov 2007</u>
67	Picking a candidate who comes closest to your positions on the issues [OR]	73
27	Picking a candidate who has the best chance of defeating the Democratic nominee in next year's election	23
2	Other (VOL.)	2
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

**ASK DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [(PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2) AND REG=1]**

Q.78 If you had to choose, which would be more important to you in deciding who to support in the Democratic presidential primary [READ]

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=473]:**

<u>Sep 22-27 2015</u>		<u>Nov 2007</u>	<u>Dec 2003<sup>12</sup></u>
65	Picking a candidate who comes closest to your positions on the issues [OR]	72	49
27	Picking a candidate who has the best chance of defeating the Republican nominee in next year's election	23	43
3	Other (VOL.)	2	1
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	7

**QUESTION 79 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

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

<sup>11</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."

<sup>12</sup> In December 2003, the question asked about "Picking a candidate who has the best chance of defeating George W. Bush in November."