

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
DECEMBER 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
DECEMBER 8-13, 2015
N=1,500**

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
Dec 8-13, 2015	46	49	4	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9
Sep 22-27, 2015	46	48	5	Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	45	7	Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8
May 12-18, 2015	46	48	6	Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8
Mar 25-29, 2015	46	47	7	May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10
Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	5	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
Jan 7-11, 2015	47	48	5	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	42	51	6	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Nov 6-9, 2014	43	52	5	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Oct 15-20, 2014	43	51	6	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Sep 2-9, 2014	42	50	8	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Jan 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8				

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

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

Q.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	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
Early August, 1998	50	44	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
February, 1998	59	37	4	May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1998	46	50	4	January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1997	45	49	6	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
August, 1997	49	46	5				

NO QUESTIONS 3-6

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (N=731):

Q.7 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

		(U)											
		Dec 2014 ²	Jan 14	Dec 12	Oct 12	Mar 12	Dec 11	May 11	Jan 11	Aug 10	Feb 10	Aug 09	Feb 09
18	Terrorism	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
9	Economy (general)	14	16	18	25	24	19	28	27	35	24	27	53
8	Defense/national security	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	--	1	1	1
7	Immigration	12	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
7	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	10	20	12	25	31	21	26	35	27	31	19	31
7	ISIS/War in Iraq/War in Syria ³	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	3	3	4	5	3
	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics/												
6	Corruption/Obama	10	8	8	9	4	10	4	9	9	5	5	5
5	Parties/Gridlock/Divisions in country	8	4	5	3	3	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Crime/Violence/Justice system	6	2	7	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	1
4	Gun control/Too many guns	--	1	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced												
3	budget/Govt spending	3	7	10	8	8	9	10	11	3	11	6	4
3	Race relations/Racism	7	2	1	1	1	1	--	--	1	--	--	--
	Health care/costs/accessibility/												
3	Affordable Care Act/Obamacare	6	11	4	5	5	4	6	9	4	13	20	3
3	Distribution of wealth/Inequality	2	3	1	1	1	2	--	1	--	--	--	--
3	Education/Schools/Affording educ.	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	2	1
2	Morality/Ethics/Family values	4	1	5	3	1	2	1	2	4	3	3	1
2	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
2	Inflation/Prices/Cost of living/Wages	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	--	--	2
2	School shootings/Mass shootings ⁴	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Environment/Global warming	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Lack of humanity/On wrong track	1	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Donald Trump	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Foreign policy (general)	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Too much regulation	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Welfare abuse/Govt dependency	--	2	1	1	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
1	Lack of leadership	2	1	1	1	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Too much foreign aid/Lack of attention to												
1	problems at home	1	2	--	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
	Risky bank loans/Sub-prime loans/												
1	People taking on too much debt	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Jobs moving overseas/Trade	1	1	1	--	1	1	1	1	--	2	1	1
12	Other	9											
2	Don't know/No answer	1	4	5	6	8	6	7	5	7	6	5	3
23	(NET) ECONOMIC	34	48	47	58	66	55	68	62	65	65	55	80
	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/												
32	INTERNATIONAL	9	8	3	6	5	6	9	6	4	11	10	7

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

NO QUESTIONS 8-10, 12-14

QUESTION 11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

² Complete trend not shown; trends available to 1987.

³ In December 2014 and earlier, "ISIS/War in Iraq/War in Syria" was shown as "War/War in Iraq/War in Afghanistan."

⁴ In December 2012, "School shootings/Mass shootings" was shown as "School shootings (Newtown, CT)."

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues ...

Q.15 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.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Race relations			
Dec 8-13, 2015	44	47	8
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	43	9
May 12-18, 2015	48	44	8
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	40	50	11
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	42	10
b. The threat of terrorism			
Obama			
Dec 8-13, 2015	37	57	6
May 12-18, 2015	47	46	6
Dec 3-7, 2014	45	49	6
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	51	44	5
Jun 12-16, 2013	56	35	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	65	28	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	56	33	12
May 2, 2011	69	21	10
Jan 6-9, 2011	55	33	12
May 6-9, 2010 ⁵	49	37	13
Jan 6-10, 2010	51	39	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	34	14
April 14-21, 2009	57	26	17
February 4-8, 2009	50	21	29
G.W. Bush			
April, 2007	46	43	11
December, 2006	48	44	8
August, 2006	50	39	11
June, 2006	47	41	12
March, 2006	42	49	9
February, 2006	53	40	7
December, 2005	49	44	7
Late October, 2005	52	40	8
Early September, 2005	49	41	10
July, 2005	49	40	11
Mid-May, 2005	57	35	8
February, 2005	59	34	7
January, 2005	62	33	5
Mid-October, 2004	49	40	11
Early September, 2004	62	32	6
August, 2004	58	37	5
July, 2004	54	40	6
June, 2004	56	35	9
Late April, 2004	55	36	9
Early April, 2004	53	38	9
Gallup: December, 2003	65	33	2
September, 2003	64	28	8
February, 2003	67	25	8
January, 2003	69	23	8
Early October, 2002	71	22	7
June, 2002	74	18	8
Mid-September, 2001 ⁶	85	6	9

⁵ In May 6-9, 2010, Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009, April, 2007 and earlier, the item was worded "terrorist threats."

Q.15 CONTINUED...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
	Clinton			
	Early September, 1998	72	20	8
c.	The nation's immigration policy			
	Dec 8-13, 2015	37	56	7
	May 12-18, 2015	37	56	7
	Dec 3-7, 2014	38	56	6
	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
d.	The economy			
	Dec 8-13, 2015	43	51	5
	Jul 14-20, 2015	45	51	4
	May 12-18, 2015	43	52	4
	Dec 3-7, 2014	45	51	4
	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
e.	Global climate change			
	Dec 8-13, 2015	45	40	15
	Jul 14-20, 2015	41	39	20
	Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	38	46	17
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	44	32	24

⁶ In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

ASK ALL:

Q.16 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>Too tough</u>	<u>Not tough enough</u>	<u>About right</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 8-13, 2015	2	58	34	6
Jul 14-20, 2015	4	53	37	7
Jan 7-11, 2015	5	55	37	3
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	3	54	36	7
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	5	51	37	6
Sep 13-16, 2012	2	41	42	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	2	47	41	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	3	47	43	7
June 10-14, 2009	2	38	51	8

NO QUESTIONS 17-19, 21**QUESTIONS 20, 22-25 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.26 In general, how well do you think the U.S. government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism [READ]?

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 8-13, 2015	9	36	27	25	2
Jan 7-11, 2015	22	50	17	9	2
Sep 2-9, 2014	17	39	22	19	2
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	26	47	18	8	2
Jul 17-21, 2013	20	47	21	9	3
Aug 17-21, 2011	27	49	16	6	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	15	54	17	10	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	15	50	21	12	2
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	20	53	14	8	4
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	19	56	15	5	5
Feb 4-8, 2009	22	49	16	6	7
Late February, 2008	21	45	19	12	3
January, 2007	17	37	27	17	2
December, 2006	17	48	21	11	3
August, 2006	22	52	16	8	2
February, 2006	16	52	20	10	2
January, 2006	16	50	20	9	5
Late October, 2005	17	50	22	9	2
July, 2005	17	53	19	8	3
July, 2004	18	53	17	8	4
August, 2003	19	56	16	7	2
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	15	54	19	8	4
June, 2002	16	60	16	4	4
Early November, 2001	35	46	9	5	5
October 15-21, 2001	38	46	9	4	3
October 10-14, 2001	48	40	6	2	4

ASK ALL:

Q.27 What concerns you more about the government's anti-terrorism policies **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**?

	They have gone too far in restricting the average <u>person's civil liberties</u>	They have not gone far enough to adequately <u>protect the country</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ Approve <u>of policies</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 8-13, 2015	28	56	11	5
Jan 7-11, 2015	37	49	8	6
Sep 2-9, 2014	35	50	9	6
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	44	39	9	7
Jul 17-21, 2013	47	35	11	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	32	47	11	10
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	58	8	8
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	36	40	13	11
Feb 4-8, 2009 ⁷	36	42	9	13
Late February, 2008	36	47	9	8
August, 2006	26	55	11	8
February, 2006	33	50	10	7
January, 2006	33	46	12	9
Late October, 2005	34	48	10	8
July, 2005	31	52	10	7
July, 2004	29	49	11	11

QUESTIONS 28, 30a, 30d, 30e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTION 29****ASK ALL:**

Q.30 As I read you some pairs of statements please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**. Next, **[NEXT PAIR] [IF NECESSARY: "Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?"]**

b.	U.S. efforts to solve problems around the world usually end up <u>making things worse</u>	Problems in the world would be even worse <u>without U.S. involvement</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
Dec 8-13, 2015	38	55	7
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	40	53	7
c.	Using overwhelming military force is the best way to defeat terrorism <u>around the world</u>	Relying too much on military force to defeat terrorism creates hatred that leads to more <u>terrorism</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
Dec 8-13, 2015	45	46	9
Feb 18-22, 2015	47	46	7
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	57	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	38	52	10
December, 2004	39	51	10

⁷ In February 4-8, 2009, the question asked whether the policies "go too far in restricting the average person's civil liberties" or "do not go far enough to adequately protect the country."

ASK ALL:

Q.31 Which of the following comes closer to your view about the federal government's efforts to prevent terrorism **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Dec 8-13

2015

32 Muslims living in the U.S. should be subject to more scrutiny than people in other religious groups

61 Muslims living in the U.S. should NOT be subject to additional scrutiny solely because of their religion

7 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NO QUESTIONS 32-39**QUESTIONS 40-43 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the political parties ...

Q.44 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?]**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u> <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Dealing with the economy					
Dec 8-13, 2015	42	37	4	9	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	41	44	4	8	4
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 ⁸	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

⁸ In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous."

Q.44 CONTINUED...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
b.	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home					
	Dec 8-13, 2015	46	34	4	9	7
	Jul 14-20, 2015	44	34	8	9	5
	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
c.	Dealing with immigration					
	Dec 8-13, 2015	42	40	3	9	7
	Jul 14-20, 2015	40	42	4	9	6
	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
	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
d.	Reflecting your views about gun control					
	Dec 8-13, 2015	43	37	3	8	10
	Jul 14-20, 2015	48	36	3	6	7
	May 1-5, 2013	42	39	4	6	9
	Jan 9-13, 2013	38	40	5	6	11
	Dec 17-19, 2012 ⁹	27	28	12	15	18
	July, 2004	34	36	3	6	21
	Late October, 2002 (RV)	36	38	5	5	16

⁹ In December 2012, July 2004, and April 2000 the question was not part of a list.

Q.44 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 2000	30	36	4	7	23
June, 1999	34	42	4	8	12
December, 1993	32	42	--	8	18

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:

e.F1 Dealing with the environment

Dec 8-13, 2015	30	53	4	5	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	27	53	5	9	6

TREND FOR COMPARISON:*Protecting the environment*

Feb 20-24, 2008	21	65	3	5	6
September, 2006	19	57	5	6	13
February, 2006	24	56	6	5	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	5	7	9
July, 2004	24	51	5	6	14
Early September, 2002	25	46	9	6	14
May, 2001	25	51	7	4	13
June, 1999	27	45	7	5	16
Early September, 1998	25	51	8	4	12
March, 1998	22	56	8	5	9
July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8
December, 1993	22	46	--	12	20
May, 1990	24	40	--	19	17

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=769]:

f.F2 Dealing with global climate change

Dec 8-13, 2015	32	46	2	8	11
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QUESTION 45 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

On another topic...

Q.45z Which statement comes closer to your own views even if neither is exactly right **[READ]** ?

	The Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among <u>its believers</u>	The Islamic religion does not encourage violence <u>more than others</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 8-13, 2015	46	45	9
Sep 2-9, 2014	50	39	11
Jul 8-14, 2014	43	44	13
Feb 12-26, 2014	38	50	12
May 1-5, 2013	42	46	13
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	40	42	18
Aug 19-22, 2010	35	42	24
Aug 11-17, 2009	38	45	16
August, 2007	45	39	16
July, 2005	36	47	17
July, 2004	46	37	17
Mid-July, 2003	44	41	15
March, 2002	25	51	24

QUESTIONS 46-48 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 49-50****ASK ALL:**

Q.51 Now, 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 threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	China's emergence as a world power				
	Dec 8-13, 2015	49	34	13	4
	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 authoritarianism in Russia				
	Dec 8-13, 2015	42	40	9	8
	Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	32	41	13	14
	Late May, 2008	24	46	12	18
	February, 2006	22	45	16	17
	Late October, 2005	23	44	13	20
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
	<i>Growing tension between Russia and its neighbors</i>				
	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
	<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				
	Dec 8-13, 2015	59	29	9	3
	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				
	Dec 8-13, 2015	62	27	8	3
	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

Q.51 CONTINUED...

	Major threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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				
Dec 8-13, 2015	49	30	17	4
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				
Dec 8-13, 2015	43	39	13	5
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	48	33	13	6
June, 2009	49	35	9	6
January, 2009	45	40	9	6
g. The Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS				
Dec 8-13, 2015	83	13	3	2
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	67	21	5	6
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
<i>Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda</i>				
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
September, 2008	72	21	3	4
Late May, 2008	72	18	4	6

NO QUESTIONS 52-58, 64-68**QUESTION 59-63 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:**

Q.69F1 How concerned, if at all, are you about the rise of Islamic extremism around the WORLD these days? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned about the rise of Islamic extremism around the world these days?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 8-13, 2015	62	27	6	3	1
Sep 2-9, 2014	62	22	10	4	2
Jul 21-24, 2011	37	36	16	8	3
Nov 12-15, 2009	49	29	12	8	2
April, 2007	48	33	11	5	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=769]:

Q.70F2 How concerned, if at all, are you about the possible rise of Islamic extremism IN THE U.S.? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned about the possible rise of Islamic extremism in the U.S.?

	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 8-13, 2015	49	29	12	8	2
Sep 2-9, 2014	53	25	14	7	1
July 21-24, 2011	36	31	19	11	2
Nov 12-15, 2009	52	27	11	7	3
April, 2007	46	32	13	5	4

QUESTIONS E1-E3, 71 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 72-80****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.81 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 8-13, 2015	64	28	8
Jul 14-20, 2015	63	26	11
Feb 18-22, 2015	63	30	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	57	33	10

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Sep 11-14, 2014 ¹⁰	53	29	19
Aug 14-17, 2014 ¹¹ (U)	54	31	15

ASK ALL:

Q.82 How well is the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria going **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>		Jul 14-20 <u>2015</u>	Feb 18-22 <u>2015</u>	Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>
7	Very well	7	7	5
28	Fairly well	23	30	29
39	Not too well	42	38	38
19	Not at all well	20	20	21
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	5	8

¹⁰ In the September 11-14, 2014 survey, respondents were asked: "As you may know, Barack Obama has announced a plan for a military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, involving U.S. airstrikes and U.S. military training for opposition groups. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of this plan?"

¹¹ In the August 14-17, 2014 survey, respondents were asked: "Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrikes against militants in Iraq in response to violence against civilians?"

ASK ALL:

Q.83 What concerns you more about the U.S. military action in Iraq and Syria **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**?

	That the US will go too far in getting involved <u>in the situation</u>	That the US will not go far enough in stopping the <u>Islamic militants</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 8-13, 2015	42	50	2	2	4
Jul 14-20, 2015	43	48	1	2	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	46	49	1	1	4
Oct 15-20, 2014	47	43	1	2	7
Sep 11-14, 2014	41	41	3	6	9

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*What concerns you more
about the U.S. military
action in Iraq?*

Aug 14-17, 2014	51	32	2	5	9
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ASK ALL:

Q.84 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. sending ground troops to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>		Jul 14-20 <u>2015</u>	Feb 18-22 <u>2015</u>	Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>
47	Favor	44	47	39
47	Oppose	49	49	55
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	4	6

ASK ALL:

Q.85 Overall, do you think the United States and its allies will **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]** in their military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>		Jul 14-20 <u>2015</u>	Feb 18-22 <u>2015</u>
17	Definitely succeed	13	15
49	Probably succeed	42	45
21	Probably fail	29	28
5	Definitely fail	7	5
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	6

NO QUESTIONS 86-89

QUESTION 90-92 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?

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	preference	party			
Dec 8-13, 2015	26	31	37	4	*	2	16	15
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	24	29	41	4	*	2	17	17
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
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls
(C)	Pew Research Global Attitudes/Carnegie Endowment for International Peace