



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release

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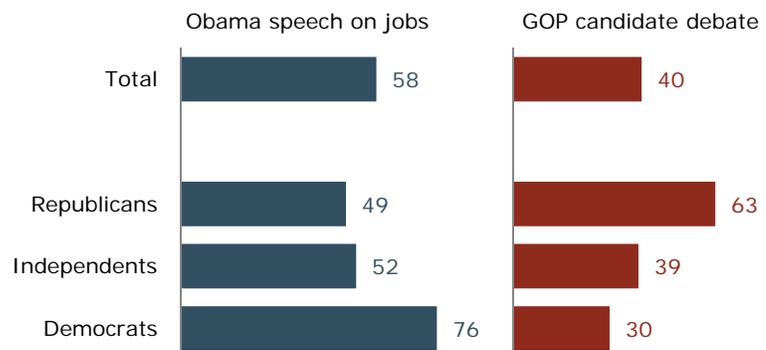
Early Republican Debate Draws Strong GOP Interest Most Plan to Watch Obama Jobs Speech

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) say they plan to watch President Obama's speech Thursday night to a joint session of Congress about his plans to spur job growth and help the struggling national economy.

Not surprisingly, fewer plan to watch Wednesday night's debate in California among the candidates for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. Four-in-ten (40%) say they plan to watch the debate, while 57% say they do not plan to watch. Obama originally sought time for the speech the same night as the GOP debate, but then moved it to Thursday.

Strong Interest in Obama Speech

Do you plan to watch...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 1-4, 2011.

The partisan differences on these questions are wide. Three-quarters of Democrats (76%) say they plan to tune in to Obama's address, compared with 49% of Republicans and 52% of independents. On the other hand, 63% of Republicans say they plan to watch the debate, compared with 30% of Democrats and 39% of independents.

About the same number say they plan to watch Obama's jobs speech as said they planned to watch his address to Congress in September 2009 during the debate over health care legislation. At that point, 56% said they planned to watch the prime time speech. More Democrats said they planned to watch (72%) the speech than Republicans (41%) or independents (52%).

Those with a college degree (65%) are more likely than those with some college experience (53%) or those with a high school diploma or less (56%) to say they plan to watch Obama's jobs speech this week. On the other hand, there are no significant differences based on household income.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted September 1-4, 2011 among a national sample of 1,001 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (601 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 400 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 192 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. 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://people-press.org/methodology/detailed>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,001	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	226	8.0 percentage points
Democrats	321	7.0 percentage points
Independents	341	6.5 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
 SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2011 OMNIBUS
 FINAL TOPLINE
 N=1,001**

**PEW.1-PEW.8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
 NO PEW.9**

ASK ALL:

PEW.10 Next week, **[INSERT ITEM. RANDOMIZE]**. Do you plan to watch this or not?

		<u>Yes, plan to watch</u>	<u>No, don't plan to watch</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	President Obama will give a prime time speech to a joint session of Congress on jobs and the economy			
	September 1-4, 2011	58	40	2
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	September 3-6, 2009: <i>Health care</i>	56	42	3
b.	The Republican presidential candidates will debate in California			
	September 1-4, 2011	40	57	3