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GOP Deeply Divided Over Climate Change

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE
PEOPLE & THE PRESS**

Michael Dimock

Director

Carroll Doherty

Associate Director

Rob Suls

Research Associate

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4350

Fax (202) 419-4399

www.people-press.org

GOP Deeply Divided Over Climate Change

Two-thirds of Americans (67%) say there is solid evidence that the earth has been getting warmer over the last few decades, a figure that has changed little in the past few years. While partisan differences over climate change remain substantial, Republicans face greater internal divisions over this issue than do Democrats.

Just 25% of Tea Party Republicans say there is solid evidence of global warming, compared with 61% of non-Tea Party Republicans.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 9-13 among 1,504 adults, finds that most people who see solid evidence of global warming – 44% of the public overall – say it is mostly caused by human activity, such as burning fossil fuels. Just 18% say it is mainly caused by natural patterns in the earth’s environment.

Partisan Views of Global Warming; Many Tea Party Republicans Say It’s ‘Just Not Happening’

Solid evidence the earth is warming?	All adults %	Dem/ Dem lean %	Among Rep/Rep leaners		
			Total %	Tea Party %	Non-Tea Party %
Yes	67	84	46	25	61
<i>Mostly because of ...</i>					
Human activity	44	64	23	9	32
Natural patterns	18	17	19	14	24
Don’t know	4	4	3	2	5
No solid evidence	26	11	46	70	30
Don’t know enough yet	12	7	20	28	16
Just not happening	13	4	25	41	13
Don’t know	1	*	1	1	1
Mixed evidence (Vol.)/DK	7	5	7	5	9
	100	100	100	100	100
N	1,504	726	655	304	334

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 9-13, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Among the 26% of the public who say there is no solid evidence of global warming, about as many say “it’s just not happening” (13%) as say “we just don’t know enough yet about whether the earth is getting warmer” (12%).

Opinions of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents divide into four roughly equal size groups: 23% say there is solid evidence of global warming and it is mostly caused by human activity; 19% say warming exists but is due to natural patterns; 25% see no solid evidence and say it is just not happening; 20% say there is no solid evidence but not enough is known yet.

Among Tea Party Republicans, the largest share – 41% – says that global warming is just not happening, while another 28% say not enough is known. Among non-Tea Party Republicans, just 13% say global warming is not happening and among Democrats and Democratic leaners, just 4% express this view.

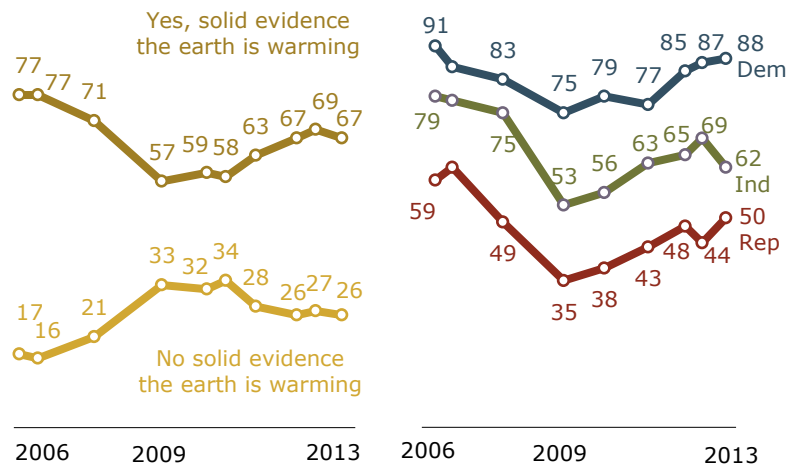
Democrats are far less divided over global warming than Republicans, although liberal Democrats are more likely than moderates and conservatives to say that global warming is mostly caused by human activity (75% vs. 58%) rather than by natural patterns.

Trends in Views on Global Warming

Overall, two-thirds (67%) of Americans say there is solid evidence that the earth has been getting warmer. These views have changed very little in the last few years.

Far more see solid evidence of global warming than did so between 2009 and early 2011. But when the Pew Research Center first asked this question in 2006, 77% said there was solid evidence that the average temperature on earth had been increasing.

Is There Solid Evidence Earth is Warming?



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Since 2009, there has been a steady increase in the share of both Republicans and Democrats who say there is solid evidence of global warming. In 2009, 35% of Republicans, 53% of independents and 75% of Democrats said there was solid evidence of rising temperatures on earth. Today, half of Republicans (50%), 62% of independents and 88% of Democrats say this.

However, fewer Republicans and independents have this view than in 2006; at that time, 59% of Republicans and 79% of independents said there was solid evidence of rising global temperatures.

Is Human Activity the Cause?

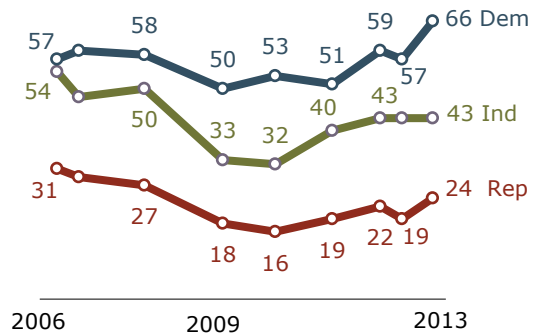
Views about the primary cause of global warming have followed a similar trajectory. Currently, 44% say there is solid evidence of global warming and it is mostly due to human activity; 18% say it is mostly because of natural environmental patterns.

Two-thirds of Democrats (66%) now say that warming is mainly because of human activity, up nine points from [earlier this year](#). Fewer independents (43%) and Republicans (24%) than Democrats say that human activity is the primary cause of global warming.

Among Democrats, there are sizable educational differences over the main cause of global warming. Fully 86% of Democrats with college degrees say that the earth is warming and this is mostly due to human activity. Among Democrats with less education, 57% express this view.

Partisan Gap over Whether Human Activity is Main Cause of Warming

% who say global warming is happening mostly because of human activity

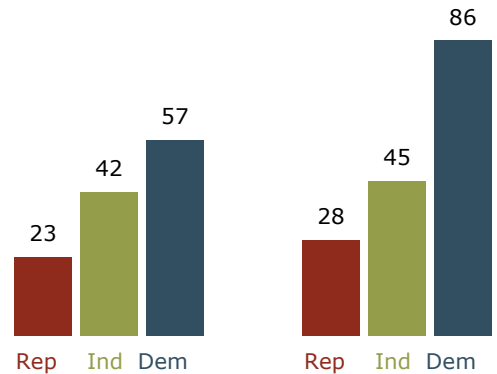


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Dem College Grads More Likely to See Human Activity as Main Cause

% who say global warming is happening mostly because of human activity

Among non-coll grads... Among college grads...



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By contrast, similar percentages of Republican college graduates (28%) and those who do not have a college degree (23%) say that human activity is mostly responsible for global warming.

More Say Scientists Agree on Cause of Global Warming

A majority (54%) now say that scientists generally agree that the earth is warming because of human activity, while 37% say that scientists do not generally agree. A year ago, opinion was evenly divided: 45% said scientists generally agreed, while 43% said they did not.

Most Democrats say there is scientific consensus on global warming (71%). Only 41% of Republicans say that scientists generally agree, while 48% say they do not.

Perceptions of where the scientific community stands on global warming are associated with individual views on the subject. About three-quarters (78%) of those who say human activity is the primary cause of global warming think that most scientists generally agree. About four-in-ten (38%) of those who say warming is mostly due to natural patterns in the environment think scientists generally agree that human activity causes global warming.

Among the 26% of Americans who say there is not solid evidence of global warming, 31% say there is scientific agreement that human activity is responsible for global warming, while 61% think there is not agreement among scientists.

Do Scientists Generally Agree that Human Activity Causes Warming?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	54	41	71	52
No	37	48	23	39
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

Mostly due to...

<i>Among those saying...</i>	Earth is warming	Human activity	Natural patterns	Not warming
Yes	65	78	38	31
No	27	17	53	61
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

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Possible to Reduce Effects of Global Warming?

While there may be disagreement over whether global warming exists, most (74%) of those who say there is solid evidence of rising temperatures on earth believe it is possible to reduce the effects. Just 23% say it is not possible.

When asked if major sacrifices will be needed to reduce the impact of global warming, 44% say they will be needed, while 26% say that technology can solve the problem.

On both of these questions there has been little change in the last five years.

Most Say Mitigating Global Warming is Possible

Based on those who say there is solid evidence of warming

<i>Possible to reduce the effects of global warming?</i>	2006	2008	2013
	%	%	%
Yes, possible	67	74	74
Major sacrifices	39	47	44
Technology can solve	23	23	26
Don't know	5	4	4
No, not possible	22	19	23
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 9-13, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 9-13, 2013 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 (752 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 752 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 407 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by Abt SRBI. 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://people-press.org/methodology/>

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 2011 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 and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 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. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. 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:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republican	405	5.7 percentage points
Democrat	475	5.2 percentage points
Independent	550	4.9 percentage points
Among Rep/Rep Lean		
Tea Party	304	6.5 percentage points
Non-Tea Party	334	6.2 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.

GLOBAL WARMING TABLES

Q.56/Q.57: From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?/ Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

	<i>Mostly because of...</i>						N
	Earth is <u>warming</u> %	<i>Human</i> <u>activity</u> %	<i>Natural</i> <u>patterns</u> %	<i>(VOL.)</i> <u>DK/Ref</u> %	Not <u>warming</u> %	Mixed/ <u>DK/Ref</u> %	
TOTAL	67	44	18	4	26	7	1504
SEX							
Men	63	43	16	3	29	8	770
Women	70	45	19	5	23	7	734
AGE							
18-49	69	49	16	4	24	7	570
50+	64	40	19	5	29	7	906
DETAILED AGE							
18-29	73	52	15	6	18	9	193
30-49	66	48	16	3	28	6	377
50-64	65	42	19	5	29	6	500
65+	61	36	20	5	30	8	406
SEX BY AGE							
Men 18-49	65	48	14	3	26	9	316
Men 50+	60	39	18	4	34	6	448
Women 18-49	73	51	17	5	21	6	254
Women 50+	67	41	21	6	25	7	458
RACE							
White, non-Hispanic	62	41	17	4	30	7	1115
Black, non-Hispanic	82	52	22	7	13	5	145
Hispanic	76	59	15	2	15	9	120
EDUCATION							
College grad+	69	54	12	3	27	4	668
Some college	64	45	16	4	29	7	442
High school or less	66	37	24	6	24	10	389
FAMILY INCOME							
\$75,000+	66	47	15	5	30	4	502
\$30,000-\$74,999	62	44	16	2	29	8	443
Less than \$30,000	72	43	22	6	20	8	384
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE							
Total Protestant	63	38	20	5	29	8	736
Total White NH Prot.	59	34	20	5	33	8	547
White NH evang. Prot.	52	28	19	5	38	9	266
White NH mainline Prot.	66	40	21	5	27	7	278
Total Black NH Prot.	82	53	18	11	13	5	103
Total Catholic	69	48	19	2	24	7	293
White NH Cath.	60	42	17	2	32	8	216
Unaffiliated	71	56	12	3	23	6	313
ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES							
Weekly or more	62	36	22	5	30	8	534
Less than weekly	69	49	16	4	24	6	941
REGION							
Northeast	70	49	17	4	25	5	275
Midwest	64	43	18	3	30	6	321
South	66	40	20	6	25	9	549
West	67	50	14	3	25	8	359

GLOBAL WARMING TABLES

Q.56 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?/Q.57 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

	<i>Mostly because of...</i>						N
	<u>Earth is warming</u>	<u>Human activity</u>	<u>Natural patterns</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Not warming</u>	<u>Mixed/DK/Ref</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
REGISTERED VOTER							
Yes, certain	66	44	18	4	28	6	1259
Not registered	69	46	19	5	19	12	245
PARTY ID							
Republican	50	24	21	5	44	7	405
Democrat	88	66	17	4	8	4	475
Independent	62	43	15	4	30	8	550
PARTY WITH LEANERS							
Rep/Lean Rep	46	23	19	3	46	7	655
Dem/Lean Dem	84	64	17	4	11	5	726
IDEOLOGY							
Conservative	50	25	21	3	43	8	596
Moderate	75	50	19	6	18	7	533
Liberal	85	72	9	4	11	4	327
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY							
Conservative Republican	39	17	19	3	53	7	293
Mod/Lib Republican	71	36	25	10	24	4	109
Mod/Cons Democrat	87	58	24	4	8	5	264
Liberal Democrat	90	79	7	4	7	3	201
TEA PARTY MOVEMENT							
Agree	25	9	14	2	70	5	304
Disagree/No opinion	61	32	24	5	30	9	334
AMONG WHITES							
Men	58	39	16	4	34	8	568
Women	66	43	18	5	27	7	547
18-49	65	45	15	5	29	7	376
50+	60	37	19	3	32	8	723
College grad+	67	51	12	4	29	4	527
Some college or less	60	37	19	4	31	9	586
\$75,000+	63	44	15	4	32	5	400
\$30,000-\$74,999	60	43	15	2	32	8	348
Less than \$30,000	63	35	22	6	27	10	252
Republican	47	22	19	5	46	7	365
Democrat	87	68	16	3	9	5	297
Independent	60	41	15	4	33	7	405
Northeast	67	47	16	5	28	6	200
Midwest	61	43	16	2	33	6	265
South	59	34	20	5	31	10	394
West	64	45	16	4	29	7	256

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
October 9-13, 2013
N=1,504

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5, 6, 9-11, 18-21, 25-28, 32-33, 35-37, 44-46, 51-52 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 7-8, 17, 22-24, 29-31, 34, 38-43, 47-50, 53-55
QUESTIONS 12-16 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.56 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on Earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

ASK IF EARTH IS GETTING WARMER (Q.56=1):

Q.57 Do you believe that the Earth is getting warmer [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]?

ASK IF EARTH IS NOT GETTING WARMER (Q.56=2):

Q.58 Do you think that we just don't know enough yet about whether the Earth is getting warmer or do you think it's just not happening?

		Mar 13-17	Oct 4-7	Nov 9-14	Feb 22- Mar 1	Oct 13-18	Sep 30- Oct 4	Apr	Jan	Aug	Jul	Jun
		<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
Oct 9-13 <u>2013</u>	67 Yes	69	67	63	58	59	57	71	77	77	79	70
	Mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels,	42	42	38	36	34	36	47	47	47	50	41
	[OR]											
	Mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment	23	19	18	18	18	16	18	20	20	23	21
	4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	6	6	5	6	6	6	10	10	6	8
26 No	27	26	28	34	32	33	21	16	17	17	20	
12	Just don't know enough yet	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
13	Just not happening	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Mixed/some evidence (VOL.)	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	1
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	6	8	5	8	8	5	6	5	3	9

IF (Q.56=1,3,9) OR (Q.58=1,9):

Q.59 Do you think it is possible to reduce the effects of global warming, or not?

ASK IF "POSSIBLE" (Q.59=1):

Q.60 To reduce the effects of global warming will we have to make major sacrifices, or can technology solve the problem without requiring major sacrifices?

BASED ON ALL EXCEPT "IT'S JUST NOT HAPPENING" [N=1,288]:

Oct 9-13 <u>2013</u>	
67	Yes, possible
38	Have to make major sacrifices
24	Technology can solve the problem without major sacrifices
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
28	No, not possible
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.59/Q.60 CONTINUED...**BASED ON SOLID EVIDENCE OF EARTH GETTING WARMER [N=987]:**

Oct 9-13 <u>2013</u>		April <u>2008</u>	June <u>2006</u>
74	Yes, possible	74	67
44	Have to make major sacrifices	47	39
26	Technology can solve the problem without major sacrifices	23	23
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	5
23	No, not possible	19	22
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	11

NO QUESTION 61**ASK ALL:**

Q.62 From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that the Earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or do they not generally agree about this?

Oct 9-13 <u>2013</u>		Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	Oct- 13-18 <u>2010</u>	Apr 28- May 12 <u>2009</u>	<i>Trend for Comparison</i> <u>July 2006</u> ¹
54	Yes, scientists generally agree that the Earth is getting warmer because of human activity	45	44	56	59
37	No, scientists do not generally agree that the Earth is getting warmer because of human activity	43	44	35	29
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	12	9	12

NO QUESTIONS 63-68, 80**QUESTION 69-79, 81 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

¹ In July 2006, question was worded: "From what you've heard or read, is there general agreement among scientists that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or not?"

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
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Yearly Totals								
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 ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Oct 9-13, 2013	19	32	46	2	2	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	18	25	52	4	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	22	29	46	2	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	17	20	56	3	4	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	19	26	52	2	1	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	18	29	50	2	1	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	19	29	47	1	3	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	19	25	52	2	2	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	18	26	53	2	2	--
Jul 16-26, 2012	16	27	54	2	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ²	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

² In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."