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Rubio Overwhelmingly Popular among Tea Party Republicans

Hagel Better Known, Viewed More Negatively

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Rubio Overwhelmingly Popular with Tea Party Republicans Hagel Better Known, Viewed More Negatively

Unfavorable opinions of Chuck Hagel have increased over the past month as he has faced a bruising confirmation battle to become President Obama's secretary of defense. A national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 14-17 among 1,003 adults, finds that 22% have a favorable opinion of Hagel while 28% have an unfavorable view; 50% express no opinion about the former Nebraska GOP senator.

A month ago, shortly after his nomination, opinions about Hagel were divided: 18% had a favorable view, 17% an unfavorable opinion and nearly two-thirds (65%) had no opinion. Over this period, the percentage holding a very unfavorable opinion of Hagel has nearly doubled – from 7% to 13%.

Currently, more than twice as many Republicans view Hagel unfavorably as favorably (36% vs. 15%); 48% have no opinion. In January, 15% viewed him favorably, 26% unfavorably, and 59% expressed no opinion. Views of Hagel are particularly negative among Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party: 48% view him unfavorably, including 26% very unfavorably, while just 15% have a favorable view.

Among Democrats and independents, the balance of opinion about Hagel also has grown more negative. Currently, 31% of Democrats view Hagel favorably while 23% view him unfavorably; 46% still have no opinion. In January, two-thirds of Democrats expressed no opinion of Hagel; among those who had an opinion, favorable views outnumbered unfavorable opinions by two-to-one (23% to 10%). Independents' views of Hagel also have turned more negative over the past month.

The survey also finds that the public expresses mixed views of Marco Rubio, following his response to Obama's State of the Union address. Overall, 26% view Rubio favorably, 29% unfavorably, and 46% cannot offer a rating.

Views of Chuck Hagel Become More Negative

	Fav	Unfav	Can't rate
	%	%	%
Feb 14-17			
Total	22	28	50=100
Republican	15	36	48=100
Democrat	31	23	46=100
Independent	21	30	50=100
Jan 9-13			
Total	18	17	65=100
Republican	15	26	59=100
Democrat	23	10	67=100
Independent	17	19	64=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 14-17, 2013.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Rubio has a strong image among Republicans and receives particularly high ratings among those who agree with the Tea Party.

Among all Republicans (and Republican leaners) who agree with the Tea Party, fully 70% view Rubio favorably compared with just 7% who view him unfavorably. Among Republicans and leaners who do not agree with the Tea Party, 31% view Rubio favorably and 25% view him unfavorably.

Rubio Better Known, Much Better Liked among Tea Party Reps

	Fav %	Unfav %	Can't rate %
Total	26	29	45=100
Republican	49	18	32=100
Democrat	15	41	43=100
Independent	25	24	50=100
<i>Among Reps and Rep leaners</i>			
Agree w/ Tea Party	70	7	23=100
Disagree/ No opinion	31	25	44=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 14-17, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Newly confirmed Secretary of State John Kerry is widely recognized by the public, with 78% able to express an opinion of him. Kerry is viewed, on balance, more favorably (45%) than unfavorably (33%) and positive views of him have ticked up six points since early January.

A majority of Democrats (64%) view Kerry favorably compared with just 18% who hold an unfavorable view. Independents are divided, with 42% viewing the former Massachusetts senator favorably and 36% unfavorably. Nearly twice as many Republicans view Kerry negatively (55%) than positively (29%).

The Week's News

The debate over gun control in the U.S. and the California manhunt for the former police officer accused of murder were the public's top news stories. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) say they followed the gun control debate very closely. Interest was comparably high among Democrats (43% very closely) and Republicans (39%).

A third (33%) followed news about the police manhunt for the former police officer accused of murder, including 41% of those living in the West.

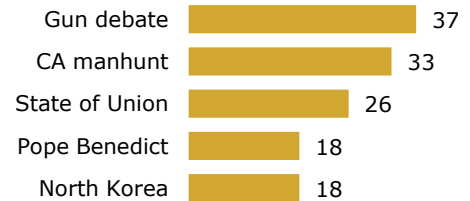
The public paid less attention to Barack Obama's State of the Union address (26% very closely). Democrats (46%) were much more likely than independents (18%) or Republicans (14%) to have followed news about the president's address.

About two-in-ten (18%) paid very close attention to Pope Benedict announcing that he would step down as head of the Catholic Church. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) Catholics followed this news very closely.

North Korea conducting a nuclear test garnered little public attention: just 18% followed news about the nuclear test very closely.

Gun Debate, California Manhunt Top Public's News Interests

% following very closely



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 14-17, 2013.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 14-17, 2013, among a national sample of 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (502 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 276 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Universal Survey Center 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/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin 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, 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	1,003	3.7 percentage points
Republicans	262	7.3 percentage points
Democrats	336	6.4 percentage points
Independents	317	6.6 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
February 14-17, 2013, OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Barack Obama's State of the Union speech					
February 14-17, 2013	26	20	16	37	*
January 26-29, 2012	29	18	16	37	1
January 27-30, 2011	28	22	13	36	1
January 29-February 1, 2010	33	22	17	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress</i>	37	26	14	23	*
February 1-4, 2008: <i>President Bush's State of the Union address</i>	18	17	20	45	*
January 26-29, 2007: <i>Reports about George Bush's State of the Union address</i>	25	26	20	28	1
February, 2006: <i>George W. Bush's State of the Union address</i>	24	22	19	34	1
February, 2003	36	24	15	24	1
January, 1994: <i>Reports about Bill Clinton's State of the Union address</i>	26	25	18	31	*
February, 1992: <i>President Bush's State of the Union Address</i>	26	26	20	27	1
b. A manhunt in California for a former police officer accused of murder					
February 14-17, 2013	33	26	21	19	1
c. Debate over gun control in the U.S.					
February 14-17, 2013	37	29	15	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	42	32	13	12	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 17-20, 2013: <i>President Obama announcing proposals for strengthening gun laws</i>	43	29	15	13	1
January 3-6, 2013: <i>Debate over gun control in the U.S.</i>	34	30	18	16	1
June, 1999: <i>Debates about gun control legislation in Congress and state legislatures</i>	28	37	22	12	1
d. Pope Benedict announcing that he would step down as head of the Catholic Church					
February 14-17, 2013	18	26	27	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Pope Benedict's visit to Cuba and Mexico</i>	5	15	23	57	*
September 16-19, 2010: <i>Pope Benedict's visit to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's handling of sex-abuse scandals</i>	10	16	26	47	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April 18-21, 2008: <i>Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S.</i>	13	32	27	27	1
May 11-15, 2005: <i>The selection of the new Pope</i>	22	33	23	20	2
e. North Korea conducting a nuclear test February 14-17, 2013	18	23	21	37	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 12-15, 2012: <i>North Korea's failed launch of a rocket carrying a satellite</i> ¹	22	27	21	29	1
March 1-4, 2012: <i>North Korea taking steps to halt its nuclear program</i>	17	22	24	36	1
January 5-8, 2012: <i>The situation in North Korea following the death of its leader Kim Jong-il</i>	17	29	24	30	*
December 2-5, 2010: <i>Tensions between North Korea and South Korea</i>	35	30	19	16	1
May 27-30, 2010	19	24	24	32	1
June 19-22, 2009: <i>New military threats from North Korea</i>	27	31	21	21	*
May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>Reports about North Korea testing nuclear weapons and missiles</i>	34	36	17	13	*
April 3-6, 2009: <i>North Korea's plans to test a long range missile</i>	23	31	19	27	*
June 27-30, 2008: <i>North Korea takes steps to halt its nuclear weapons program</i>	19	30	26	24	1
February 16-19, 2007: <i>Recent negotiations to shut down North Korea's nuclear weapons program</i>	15	31	22	31	1
Late October, 2006: <i>North Korea's announcement that it recently tested a nuclear weapon</i>	45	33	13	8	1
February, 2005: <i>North Korea's nuclear weapons program</i>	22	34	22	22	*
September, 2003	19	32	27	21	1
May, 2003	27	40	22	11	*
March, 2003	34	34	19	12	1
February, 2003	33	34	18	13	2
January, 2003	33	34	18	14	1
Late October, 2002: <i>North Korea's admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons</i>	25	31	23	20	1
June, 1994: <i>Reports about North Korea's building of nuclear weapons and refusal to allow U.N. inspections</i>	27	33	26	14	*

¹ Wording for Thursday, April 12, 2012, was: "North Korea's controversial plan to launch a rocket carrying a satellite" for PEW1.c and PEW2.

PEW.4a-b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**NO ITEM PEW.4c.****ASK ALL:**

PEW.4 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
d.	Chuck Hagel								
	Feb 14-17, 2013	22	5	17	28	13	15	36	14
	Jan 9-13, 2013	18	5	14	17	7	10	41	24
e.	John Kerry								
	Feb 14-17, 2013	45	13	32	33	14	19	10	12
	Jan 9-13, 2013	39	11	27	36	15	21	12	13
	April, 2006	45	10	35	44	20	24	2	9
	Late October, 2005	46	12	34	43	20	23	2	9
	Late March, 2005	49	13	36	41	17	24	2	8
	Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	56	21	35	40	16	24	0	3
	Early October, 2004 (RVs)	53	16	37	41	16	25	*	6
	Early September, 2004	49	17	32	43	19	24	*	8
	August, 2004	56	23	33	36	14	22	1	7
	June, 2004	50	11	39	41	16	25	0	9
	Early February, 2004	58	14	44	28	8	20	1	13
	January, 2003	30	6	24	16	4	12	36	18
f.	Marco Rubio								
	Feb 14-17, 2013	26	10	16	29	15	14	31	15

PEW.5-PEW.6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.