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For The People & The Press

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Environment, Immigration, Health Care Slip Down the List
ECONOMY, JOBS TRUMP ALL OTHER POLICY PRIORITIES IN 2009

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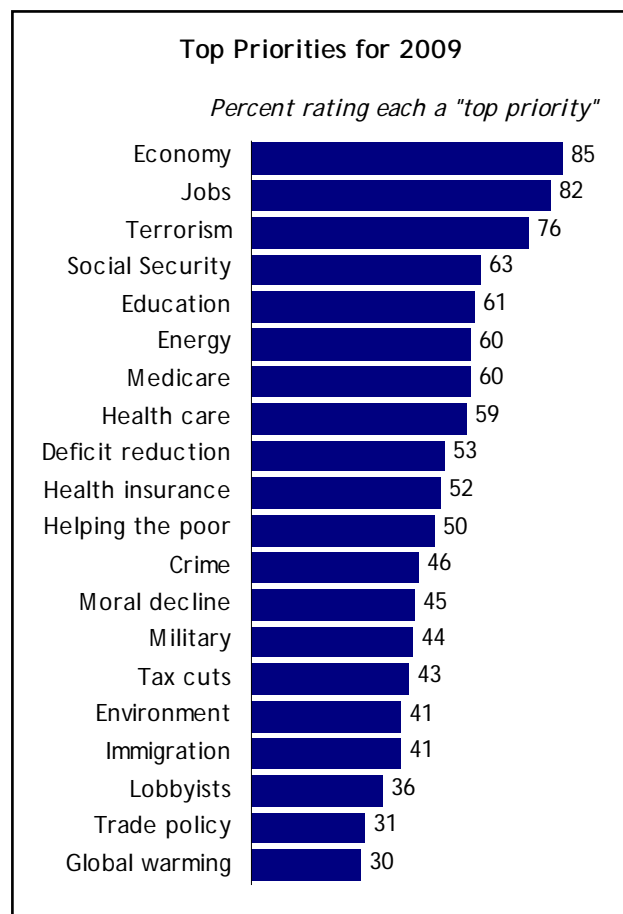
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Environment, Immigration, Health Care Slip Down the List ECONOMY, JOBS TRUMP ALL OTHER POLICY PRIORITIES IN 2009

As Barack Obama takes office, the public's focus is overwhelmingly on domestic policy concerns – particularly the economy. Strengthening the nation's economy and improving the job situation stand at the top of the public's list of domestic priorities for 2009. Meanwhile, the priority placed on issues such as the environment, crime, illegal immigration and even reducing health care costs has fallen off from a year ago.

While it is not unusual for the public to prioritize domestic over foreign policy, the balance of opinion today is particularly one-sided. Roughly seven-in-ten Americans (71%) say that President Obama should focus on domestic policy, while just 11% prioritize foreign policy. By comparison, last January, 56% cited domestic policy as most important while 31% said Bush should focus on foreign policy.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 7-11 among 1,503 adults on cell phones and landlines, finds that strengthening the economy and improving the job situation are higher priorities today than they have been at any point over the past decade, and the recent upward trend has been steep. The share of Americans saying that strengthening the nation's economy should be a top priority has risen from 68% two years ago to 75% last January to 85% today. Concern about jobs has risen even more sharply. The 82% who rate improving the job situation as a



Which Is More Important for the President to Focus on?

	Do- mestic %	Fo- reign %	(Vol.) Both %	Neither/ DK %
<i>Barack Obama</i>				
Jan 2009	71	11	14	4=100
<i>The next president</i>				
Sept 2008	60	21	15	4=100
<i>George W. Bush</i>				
Jan 2008	56	31	8	5=100
Jan 2007	39	40	15	6=100
Jan 2006	57	25	13	5=100
Jan 2005	53	27	16	4=100
Jan 2002	52	34	11	3=100
<i>Bill Clinton</i>				
Sept 1998	56	30	11	3=100
Jan 1997	86	7	5	2=100
Dec 1994	85	7	4	4=100
Oct 1993	76	13	7	4=100

top priority represents a 21-point jump from 61% a year ago.

Of the 20 issues people were asked to rate in both January 2008 and January 2009, five have slipped significantly in importance as attention to the economy has surged. Protecting the environment fell the most precipitously – just 41% rate this as a top priority today, down from 56% a year ago. The percentage rating illegal immigration as a top priority has fallen from 51% to 41% over the past year, and reducing crime has fallen by a similar amount (from 54% to 46%). And while reducing health care costs remains a top priority to 59% of Americans, this is down 10-points from 69% one year ago.

The public’s interest in many other policy areas remains relatively stable, by comparison. Roughly three-quarters (76%) say that defending the country from future terrorist attacks should be a top priority, making it the third highest priority among the 20 issues tested in the survey. As recently as two years ago, terrorism ranked at the top of the list of policy priorities. The share of Americans who rate terrorism as a top priority has not changed substantially in recent years; the issue has simply been leapfrogged by the economy and jobs at the top of the list.

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	<i>08-09 change</i>
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	73	79	75	66	68	75	85	+10
Improving the job situation	60	67	62	67	68	65	57	61	82	+21
Defending US against terrorism	--	83	81	78	75	80	80	74	76	+2
Securing Social Security	74	62	59	65	70	64	64	64	63	-1
Improving educational system	78	66	62	71	70	67	69	66	61	-5
Dealing with US energy problems	--	42	40	46	47	58	57	59	60	+1
Securing Medicare	71	55	56	62	67	62	63	60	60	0
Reducing health care costs	--	--	--	--	--	--	68	69	59	-10
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	40	51	56	55	53	58	53	-5
Providing health ins. to uninsured	61	43	45	54	60	59	56	54	52	-2
Dealing with problems of poor	63	44	48	50	59	55	55	51	50	-1
Reducing crime	76	53	47	53	53	62	62	54	46	-8
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	45	39	45	41	47	47	43	45	+2
Strengthening the military	48	52	48	48	52	42	46	42	44	+2
Reducing middle class taxes	66	43	--	44	48	51	48	46	43	-3
Protecting the environment	63	44	39	49	49	57	57	56	41	-15
Dealing with illegal immigration	--	--	--	--	--	--	55	51	41	-10
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	39	36	-3
Dealing with global trade	37	25	--	32	32	30	34	37	31	-6
Dealing with global warming	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	35	30	-5

As with terrorism, public views of the importance of several other policy priorities have not changed much in recent years. Roughly six-in-ten continue to rate making the Social Security system (63%) and making the Medicare system (60%) more financially sound as top priorities. Dealing with the nation's energy problems also remains a top priority for six-in-ten, as does improving the educational system (61%), though the public's emphasis on the latter has slipped slightly in recent years.

Republicans' Job Concerns Surge

There is partisan agreement that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress in 2009 – more than eight-in-ten Democrats (88%), independents (85%) and Republicans (83%) rate strengthening the nation's economy as a top priority.

There is also increasing agreement across party lines about the importance of improving the job situation. A year ago, 76% of Democrats rated improving the job situation as a top priority compared with just 43% of Republicans – among the biggest partisan divisions in 2008. Today, the partisan gap is much smaller; the share of Republicans rating jobs as a top priority has jumped 29 points to 72%. The percentage of Democrats citing jobs as a major priority has increased by a smaller margin (from 76% to 89%).

The large decline in the percentage of Americans citing the environment is seen across the political spectrum, but Republicans (20%) remain far less likely than Democrats (54%) or independents (41%) to say that protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and Congress. The only policy that ranks lower than protecting the environment among Republicans is dealing with global warming (16%).

Far fewer Republicans rate dealing with illegal immigration as a major policy priority than did so in January 2008 (46% now, 64% then). Dealing with illegal immigration also has declined as a policy priority for independents and Democrats (nine points each).

Jobs and Economy Dominate ...			
	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Change
<i>Percent "top priority"</i>	%	%	
Improving job situation	61	82	+21
Republican	43	72	+29
Democrat	76	89	+13
Independent	61	80	+19
Strengthening economy	75	85	+10
Republican	76	83	+7
Democrat	76	88	+12
Independent	74	85	+11
As Other Priorities Lose Ground			
Protecting environment	56	41	-15
Republican	39	20	-19
Democrat	67	54	-13
Independent	56	41	-15
Reducing health care costs	69	59	-10
Republican	53	45	-8
Democrat	81	71	-10
Independent	68	52	-16
Dealing w/ illegal immigration	51	41	-10
Republican	64	46	-18
Democrat	43	34	-9
Independent	51	42	-9

Reducing health care costs is viewed as a less important priority than at the beginning of last year. Only about half of independents (52%) say that reducing health care costs should be a top priority, down from 68% a year ago. This decline is less pronounced among Democrats (down 10 points since 2008) and Republicans (down eight points).

Environment a Lower Priority

The 15-point decline in the percentage calling environmental protection a top priority this year is steep, but not unprecedented given the broader shift in public priorities. Between January 2001 and January 2002, the proportion rating environmental protection as a top priority fell by a similar amount (from 63% to 44%); a number of domestic priorities declined in importance following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. By January 2003, just 39% called environmental protection a top priority – comparable to today’s 41% – before resurging as a priority from 2006 to 2008, only to fall again this year.

The decline in the percentage calling environmental protection a top priority crosses partisan and demographic lines. For instance, only about four-in-ten women (43%) and men (39%) now say that protecting the environment should be a top priority; last January, 57% of women and 55% of men rated environmental protection as a top priority.

Protecting Environment Declines as Top Priority			
<i>% rating environmental protection as a 'top priority'</i>			
	Jan <u>2008</u> %	Jan <u>2009</u> %	<u>Change</u>
Total	56	41	-15
Men	55	39	-16
Women	57	43	-14
18-34	55	43	-12
35-49	58	41	-17
50-64	56	35	-21
65+	57	45	-12
College grad	46	35	-11
Some college	58	36	-22
HS or less	61	48	-13
Republican	39	20	-19
Independent	56	41	-15
Democrat	67	54	-13
Mod/Cons Dem	63	54	-9
Liberal Dem	74	57	-17

Deficits and Tax Cuts

For the past several years, a greater percentage of Democrats than Republicans have rated reducing the budget deficit as a top priority. But this gap has disappeared, as a narrower majority of Democrats view this as a major priority than did so last year (64% vs. 52%). Republicans' views about the importance of reducing the deficit have been stable (52% in 2008, 51% now).

	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Change
<i>Percent "top priority"</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Reducing budget deficit	58	53	-5
Republican	52	51	-1
Democrat	64	52	-12
Independent	57	57	0
Reducing middle class taxes	46	43	-3
Republican	46	31	-15
Democrat	50	48	-2
Independent	44	45	+1

By contrast, a partisan gap has emerged this year over reducing middle-class taxes. At the start of 2008, roughly half of both Democrats (50%) and Republicans (46%) rated this as a top priority. Today, just 31% of Republicans say middle class tax cuts are a top priority, compared with 48% of Democrats.

Crime Concerns Fall

The public's crime concerns have fluctuated over the past eight years. In January 2001, fully 76% rated reducing crime as a top priority. Reducing crime fell as a major goal after 9/11, but increased in 2006 and 2007 (62% rating it a top priority in each year). Currently, just 46% say that reducing crime should be a top priority, down from 54% in January 2008.

	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Change
<i>Percent "top priority"</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Total	54	46	-8
Republican	49	41	-8
Democrat	62	47	-15
Independent	50	47	-3
Men	49	45	-4
Women	60	47	-13
College grad+	40	28	-12
Some college	52	44	-8
HS or less	65	58	-7

In the past year, the percentage of Democrats who view reducing crime as a major goal has fallen sharply – from 62% to 47%. Far fewer women and college graduates also rate crime reduction as a top priority (down 13 points and 12 points, respectively).

Dueling Agendas

The fundamental gaps between Democratic and Republican priorities seen in previous years remain largely the same today. Democrats place a far higher priority on issues related to the poor, on the environment and on education than do Republicans. And Republicans place a higher priority on defense and illegal immigration than do Democrats.

As was the case a year ago, the single biggest partisan gap comes over how much priority to place on providing health insurance to the uninsured. Two-thirds (66%) of Democrats rate this as a top priority while just 28% of Republicans agree. Similarly, 62% of Democrats say that dealing with the problems of the poor and needy is a top priority, compared with 34% of Republicans. By contrast, Republicans place greater priority on strengthening the military (64% vs. 38% of Democrats) and dealing with illegal immigration (46% vs. 34%).

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<i>R-D diff.</i>
Providing health ins. to uninsured	28	66	50	-38
Protecting the environment	20	54	41	-34
Dealing with global warming	16	45	25	-29
Dealing with problems of poor	34	62	48	-28
Reducing health care costs	45	71	52	-26
Improving educational system	46	71	59	-25
Improving job situation	72	89	80	-17
Securing Medicare	48	65	61	-17
Reducing middle class taxes	31	48	45	-17
Dealing with US energy problems	51	66	61	-15
Securing Social Security	60	66	62	-6
Reducing crime	41	47	47	-6
Strengthening nation's economy	83	88	85	-5
Dealing with global trade	28	33	32	-5
Reducing budget deficit	51	52	57	-1
Dealing with moral breakdown	50	46	40	+4
Reducing influence of lobbyists	37	30	42	+7
Defending US against terrorism	79	71	81	+8
Dealing with illegal immigration	46	34	42	+12
Strengthening the military	64	38	41	+26

Most Want Obama to Focus Domestically

Democrats, independents and Republicans generally agree that it is more important for President Obama to focus on domestic policy than foreign policy. The partisan gap has narrowed since January 2008, when Republicans were evenly split about whether former President Bush should focus domestically or internationally (45% each). Currently, 66% of Republicans say it is more important for Obama to focus on domestic issues while just 14% say he should focus on foreign policy.

A year ago, majorities of Democrats (62%) and independents (60%) said that Bush should focus more on

<i>Among...</i>	<u>Jan 2008</u>	<u>Sept 2008</u>	<u>Jan 2009</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Republicans			
Domestic policy	45	52	66
Foreign policy	45	27	14
Democrats			
Domestic policy	62	64	75
Foreign policy	27	19	9
Independents			
Domestic policy	60	66	73
Foreign policy	26	18	11
<i>R-D difference in % domestic</i>	-17	-12	-9

domestic than foreign policy. Even higher percentages of those groups express that view about Obama's priorities today (75% of Democrats, 73% of independents).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, from January 7-11, 2009 (1,128 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 375 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 112 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also 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 2007 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 sample.

The following table shows 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	1,503	3.0 percentage points
Form 1 sample	769	4.0 percentage points
Form 2 sample	734	4.0 percentage points

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.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 January 7-11, 2009
 N=1,503

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 12 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.13 Right now, which is more important for President-elect Obama to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

		Domestic	Foreign	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		<u>policy</u>	<u>policy</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Obama	January, 2009	71	11	*	14	4=100
	September, 2008 ¹	60	21	*	15	4=100
	May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4=100
Bush	January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4=100
Bush	January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5=100
Bush	August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5=100
Bush	January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4=100
Bush	October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3=100
Bush	Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3=100
Bush	January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3=100
Clinton	Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3=100
Clinton	January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2=100
Clinton	December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2=100
Clinton	October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4=100

QUESTIONS 14 THROUGH 24

NO QUESTIONS 25-26

ASK ALL:

Q.27 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President-elect Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **(INSERT ITEM)?**

		Top	Important	Not too	Should not	
		<u>priority</u>	<u>but lower</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
SUMMARY TABLE						
s.	Strengthening the nation's economy	85	12	1	1	1=100
a.F1	Improving the job situation	82	15	1	1	1=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	76	18	3	1	2=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	63	31	3	1	2=100
l.F2	Improving the educational system	61	30	5	2	2=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	60	32	5	1	2=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	60	32	5	1	2=100
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	59	30	5	4	2=100

¹ September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	53	33	7	3	4=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	52	33	6	6	3=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	50	39	6	3	2=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	46	41	9	2	2=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	45	29	16	6	4=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	44	39	8	4	5=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	43	39	10	4	4=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment	41	42	12	3	2=100
k.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	41	36	18	3	2=100
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	36	34	18	5	7=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	31	49	11	2	7=100
w.F2	Dealing with global warming	30	37	19	10	4=100

FULL TREND

ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=769]:

a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	January, 2009	82	15	1	1	1=100
	January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2=100
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2=100
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1=100
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit					
	January, 2009	53	33	7	2	4=100
	January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3=100
	January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4=100
	January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4=100
	January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2=100
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3=100
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5=100
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	Paying off the national debt					
	January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4=100
	January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4=100
	July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4=100
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2=100

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		Top <u>priority</u>	Important but lower <u>priority</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c.F1	Reducing crime					
	January, 2009	46	41	9	2	2=100
	January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2=100
	January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1=100
	January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2=100
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2=100
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2=100
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class					
	January, 2009	43	39	10	4	4=100
	January, 2008	46	40	8	3	3=100
	January, 2007	48	35	10	4	3=100
	January, 2006	51	32	8	5	4=100
	January, 2005	48	35	8	6	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	44	37	12	6	1=100
	January, 2002	43	37	11	6	3=100
	January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment					
	January, 2009	41	42	12	3	2=100
	January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1=100
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1=100
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*=100
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1=100
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
f.F1	Reducing health care costs					
	January, 2009	59	30	5	4	2=100
	January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1=100
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:						
	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3=100
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3=100
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4=100
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2=100
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100

NO ITEMS g AND h

i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	January, 2009	76	18	3	1	2=100
	January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2=100
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1=100
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1=100
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0=100
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	January, 2009	31	49	11	2	7=100
	January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5=100
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6=100
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8=100
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6=100
	Mid-January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4=100
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5=100
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6=100
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7=100
k.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration					
	January, 2009	41	36	18	3	2=100
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3=100
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2=100

ASK ITEMS I THRU r OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=734]:

l.F2	Improving the educational system					
	January, 2009	61	30	5	2	2=100
	January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2=100
	January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1=100
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1=100

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		Important Top <u>priority</u>	but lower priority	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	January, 2009	63	31	3	1	2=100
	January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2=100
	January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1=100
	January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1=100
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	January, 2009	60	32	5	1	2=100
	January, 2008	60	33	4	1	2=100
	January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2=100
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1=100
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1=100
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
	January, 2009	50	39	6	3	2=100
	January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3=100
	January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1=100
	January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1=100
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1=100

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1=100
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country					
	January, 2009	45	29	16	6	4=100
	January, 2008	43	31	13	8	5=100
	January, 2007	47	30	12	8	3=100
	January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4=100
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2=100
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4=100
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4=100
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured					
	January, 2009	52	33	6	6	3=100
	January, 2008	54	32	8	4	2=100
	January, 2007	56	31	7	4	2=100
	January, 2006	59	30	6	2	3=100
	January, 2005	60	30	7	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	54	34	8	3	1=100
	January, 2003	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2=100
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	January, 2009	44	39	8	4	5=100
	January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3=100
	January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4=100
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3=100
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1=100
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3=100
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2=100
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2=100
ASK ALL:						
s.	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	January, 2009	85	12	*	1	1=100
	January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2=100
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1=100

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2=100
January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2=100
January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1=100
January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1=100
Early September, 2001 ²	80	18	1	*	1=100
January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1=100
January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100

ASK ITEMS t THRU w OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=734]:

t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem					
	January, 2009	60	32	5	1	2=100
	January, 2008	59	32	6	1	2=100
	January, 2007	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2=100
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3=100
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001 ³	46	41	6	2	5=100

NO ITEM u.

v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
	January, 2009	36	34	18	5	7=100
	January, 2008	39	32	16	4	9=100
	January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8=100
w.F2	Dealing with global warming					
	January, 2009	30	37	19	10	4=100
	January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5=100
	January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4=100

QUESTIONS A1 THROUGH END PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

² In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

³ In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."