



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Obama's Ratings Hold Steady, Trip Well-Received
PARTISAN BICKERING IS BACK, SAYS PUBLIC

Also inside...

- Obama can reduce deficit
- GOP favorability still in doldrums
- Health care, education trump deficit
- Stricter financial regs favored

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Obama's Ratings Hold Steady, Trip Well-Received PARTISAN BICKERING IS BACK, SAYS PUBLIC

Shortly before President Obama took office in January, the public was uncharacteristically optimistic that Republicans and Democrats would work together more to solve problems in the year ahead. Less than three months later, those expectations have faded and most see a return to partisan politics in Washington.

A majority (53%) currently says that Republicans and Democrats have been bickering and opposing each more than usual, while just a quarter (25%) say the two sides have been working together more. In January, twice as many (50%) said they expected Republicans and Democrats to work together more.

A Rapid Return to Political Partisanship							
	Oct 2003	Jun 2004	Jan 2005	May 2005	Jan 2009	Apr 2009	Jan-Apr Change
<i>This year, Reps and Dems have been*...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Bickering more than usual	55	60	59	64	39	53	+14
Working together more	21	21	30	13	50	25	-25
Same as past/Don't know	24	19	11	23	11	22	
	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<i>Compared with the past, the country is...</i>	Dec 2004	Sep 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2009	Apr 2009		
More politically divided	66	70	66	46	61	+15	
Not more politically divided	26	24	28	45	34	-11	
Don't know	8	6	6	9	5		
	100	100	100	100	100		

* When asked in January, the question is in the future tense: Do you think Republicans and Democrats *will* work together more or bicker more than usual this coming year?

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 31-April 6 among 1,506 adults reached on landlines and cell phones, also finds that 61% say they country is more politically divided than in the past – up 15 points since January.

There is no evidence that increased perceptions of a politically divided country have affected President Obama's standing with the public. His overall job approval rating of 61% is largely unchanged from March (59%), and the early reviews for his first major overseas trip as president are positive. In the survey, conducted before Obama's surprise visit to Iraq, 63% say Obama did either an excellent (28%) or good job (35%) in representing America's interests; just 28% say he did only a fair (19%) or poor job (9%) in representing the nation's interests.

Moreover, Obama garners considerably more confidence on the economy than either Democratic or Republican leaders in Congress. Fully 70% say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing when it comes to fixing the economy. A majority (55%) also say they have at least a fair amount of confidence in congressional Democratic leaders. By comparison, just 38% voice the same degree of confidence in Republicans leaders in Congress.

	Barack Obama	Dem leaders	Rep leaders
<i>Confidence in each to do right thing on economy</i>	%	%	%
Great deal/Fair amount	70	55	38
Not too much/None	26	40	57
Don't know	4	5	5
	100	100	100

	Optimistic	Pessimistic	DK
<i>Optimistic Obama's policies will...</i>	%	%	%
Improve economy	66	26	8=100
Reduce budget deficit	54	36	10=100

While two-thirds of Americans (66%) say they are optimistic that Obama's policies will improve economic conditions, a majority (54%) also believe his policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term.

At the same time, there are no signs of overall improvement in the Republican Party's image, or much of a narrowing in the wide gap in favorability between the GOP and the Democratic Party. Just 40% have a favorable opinion of the Republican Party, which is unchanged from January. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) have a positive view of the Democratic Party, compared with 62% in January.

Health Care, Education Spending Trump Deficit

In terms of budget tradeoffs, most Americans (59%) say they would place a higher priority on spending more money to make health care more accessible and affordable than on reducing the budget deficit. A nearly identical majority (58%) believes that spending more to improve education ranks as a higher priority than reducing the deficit.

However, opinion is more evenly divided over whether increasing funding to develop new energy technology should trump deficit reduction: about half (49%) say that spending on new energy technology is the higher priority while nearly as many say reducing the budget deficit (45%) is the higher priority.

On all three issues, most Democrats favor spending increases while most Republicans favor deficit reduction. The biggest partisan gap over budget priorities is with respect to health care. Nearly eight-in-ten Democrats (78%) see increased spending to make health care more accessible and affordable as a higher priority than deficit reduction, compared with 57% of independents and 36% of Republicans.

Seven-in-ten Democrats place a greater priority on spending more to improve education; 57% of independents and 41% of Republicans agree. Smaller percentages across the board view spending on new energy technology as a higher priority than deficit reduction: 58% of Democrats express this view, as do 49% of independents and just 32% of Republicans.

<i>Higher priority...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	<i>R-D Diff</i>
Spending more on health care	59	36	78	57	-42
Reducing the deficit	35	59	17	39	
Don't know	6	5	5	4	
	100	100	100	100	
Spending more to improve education	58	41	70	57	-29
Reducing the deficit	38	57	25	40	
Don't know	4	2	5	3	
	100	100	100	100	
Spending more to develop new energy technology	49	32	58	49	-26
Reducing the deficit	45	64	35	46	
Don't know	6	4	7	5	
	100	100	100	100	

When all three questions are analyzed together, 30% of Americans prioritize spending over the deficit on all three issues – health care, education, and new energy technology – while just 17% prioritize deficit reduction in all three cases. But most Americans (53%) do not take a consistent position on increased spending versus the deficit and instead express different views depending on the issue.

Stricter Financial Regulation Backed

Six-in-ten Americans (60%) think it is a good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business, while 31% say tougher regulations are a bad idea. Most of those who support tougher regulations – 34% of the public – say this is something they strongly support; 21% say tougher regulations are good idea but say they have reservations about the proposal.

The vast majority of liberal Democrats

	Total	Cons	Mod/Lib	Cons/Mod	Lib
<i>Stricter regulation of financial companies</i>	%	Rep	Rep	Dem	Dem
Good idea	60	33	52	61	82
<i>Strongly support</i>	34	8	31	32	67
<i>Have reservations</i>	21	20	20	23	14
Don't know	5	5	1	6	1
Bad idea	31	60	41	31	8
Don't know	9	7	7	8	10
	100	100	100	100	100

(82%) view stricter regulations of financial companies as a good thing; 67% of liberal Democrats say they strongly support them. Among conservative and moderate Democrats, 73% regard more strict regulation as a good idea, but fewer than half (43%) say this is something they strongly support.

Republicans also are divided over placing tighter regulations on financial firms. A majority of moderate and liberal Republicans (52%) favor this proposal while just 33% of conservative Republicans agree. By about two-to-one (61% to 31%), more independents view stricter regulation of financial companies as a good idea rather than a bad idea.

Confidence in Political Leaders

When it comes to economic policy, Obama inspires substantially more confidence than do congressional leaders of either party. Seven-in-ten (70%) say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in Obama when it comes to fixing the economy.

Substantially fewer (55%) say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in Democratic congressional leaders to do the right thing when it comes to the economy. And Republican leaders in Congress fare even worse – just 38% say they are confident in the Republicans when it comes to fixing the economy, while most (57%) say they have not too much confidence or no confidence at all in their abilities.

<i>Confidence in...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
Barack Obama	%	%	%	%
Great deal/Fair amount	70	36	94	70
Not too much/None	26	60	5	27
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
Dem Leaders in Congress				
Great deal/Fair amount	55	20	87	49
Not too much/None	40	77	10	46
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
Rep Leaders in Congress				
Great deal/Fair amount	38	66	22	40
Not too much/None	57	30	75	56
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

While Democrats in Congress trail President Obama across all partisan groups, the confidence gap is most notable among independents. Seven-in-ten (70%) independents say they have at least a fair amount of confidence in Barack Obama when it comes to the economy while 49% say the same about Democratic leaders in Congress. Four-in-ten independents (40%) say they have confidence in Republican congressional leaders when it comes to fixing the economy.

Democrats express much greater confidence in their own party's congressional leaders than do Republicans. Fully 87% of Democrats say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in their party's leaders when it comes to fixing the economy – far fewer Republicans (66%) express the same level of confidence in GOP congressional leaders.

Most people also believe that Republican leaders have not clearly articulated their opposition to Obama's economic policies. While 54% of Americans say that Obama has clearly explained his policies, just 25% say that that Republicans in Congress have clearly explained why they oppose his approach. Even among Republicans themselves, as many say their party's leaders have failed to clearly articulate their position (42%) as say they have explained themselves clearly (41%).

Obama Has Communicated More Clearly				
Has Barack Obama explained his economic policies?	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Explained clearly	54	32	81	49
Not clearly enough	34	60	12	38
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
Have Rep leaders explained their opposition to Obama?				
Explained clearly	25	41	15	26
Not clearly enough	59	42	71	59
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100

Most See Obama Taming Deficit

Two-thirds of Americans are optimistic that Barack Obama's policies will improve economic conditions in the country. This includes 91% of Democrats, 63% of independents and 39% of Republicans. This favorable outlook even extends to the budget deficit, which has been a contentious aspect of his overall economic platform.

By a 54% to 36% margin, more Americans are optimistic than pessimistic that Obama's policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term. As with views of the impact of Obama's economic policies, there is a huge partisan gap in opinions about the impact his policies will have on the budget deficit. More than eight-in-ten Democrats (81%) say they are optimistic that Obama's policies will reduce the deficit over the long term, compared with fewer than half of independents (47%) and just 26% of Republicans.

Most Are Optimistic Obama's Policies Will Work				
<i>Obama's policies will...</i>				
Improve economic conditions	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Optimistic	66	39	91	62
Pessimistic	26	52	4	29
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100
Reduce budget deficit over the long term				
Optimistic	54	26	81	47
Pessimistic	36	64	11	43
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

An analysis shows that optimism about whether Obama's policies will improve the economy is more closely associated with his job approval rating than is optimism about whether his policies will reduce the budget deficit. The converse also is true: While 78% of those who are pessimistic that his policies will fix the economy disapprove of his job performance, a smaller percentage (60%) of those who are pessimistic about the deficit disapprove.

More Partisanship than in Bush's First Year

The reversal in public views about the level of partisan cooperation in Washington has been stark, particularly when compared with opinions during President Bush's first few months in office.

In January 2001, there was somewhat less optimism that Republicans and Democrats would work together more in the year ahead than there was just before Obama's inauguration in January of this year (41% in January 2001 vs. 50% this year).

By May 2001, 34% said the two parties were working together more, a decline of only seven points from the percentage predicting improved partisan relations in January. In the current survey, by contrast, only 25% say the two parties are working together more to solve problems, down 25 points from the percentage predicting better relations in January of this year.

Fewer See Parties Working Together than at Comparable Point in Bush's First Term				
	<i>Reps and Dems have been*...</i>			
	Working together more	Bickering more	Same (Vol)	DK
<i>Obama</i>	%	%	%	%
April 2009	25	53	8	14=100
January 2009	50	39	6	5=100
<i>Jan-April change</i>	-25	+14	+2	
<i>Bush</i>				
May 2001	34	41	9	16=100
January 2001	41	50	4	5=100
<i>Jan-May change</i>	-7	+9	+5	

* When asked in January, the question is in the future tense: Do you think Republicans and Democrats *will* work together more or bicker more than usual this coming year?

More Dems See Country as Divided

The belief that the two parties are working together more has declined sharply among Republicans, Democrats and independents since January. However, far more Democrats (33%) than Republicans (14%) see greater partisan cooperation.

By contrast, views about whether the country is more politically divided have changed dramatically among Democrats, but have been relatively stable among Republicans and independents. In January, a majority of Democrats (56%) said the country was *not* more politically divided than in the past, while 36% said it was more divided. Since then, however, the balance of opinion among Democrats has flipped: 58% say the country is more politically divided while 38% say it is not.

Changing Perceptions of Political Divisions			
	Jan	Apr	Change
Parties working together more	%	%	
Total	50	25	-25
Republicans	40	14	-26
Democrats	59	33	-26
Independents	49	25	-24
Country <i>not</i> more politically divided			
Total	45	34	-11
Republicans	39	30	-9
Democrats	56	38	-18
Independents	38	33	-5

Obama Approval Steady

Currently, 61% approve of the way that Obama is handling his job as president while 26% disapprove. This is largely unchanged from March, when 59% approved and 26% disapproved.

Last month, Pew Research found that the partisan gap in Obama's job approval ratings was the highest for any new president of the last 40 years. This gap remains about as large in the current survey: 91% of Democrats approve of Obama's job performance compared with just 29% of Republicans. (*For more, see "Partisan Gap in Obama Job Approval Widest in Modern Era"*).

	February		March		April		April N
	App- rove	Dis- app	App- rove	Dis- app	App- rove	Dis- app	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	64	17	59	26	61	26	1,506
Republican	34	41	27	56	29	60	358
Conserv Rep	28	47	17	68	24	68	245
Mod/Lib Rep	46	30	49	30	38	46	100
Democrat	88	3	88	5	91	3	460
Cons/Mod Dem	86	3	86	6	89	3	290
Liberal Dem	94	2	93	2	94	2	153
Independent	63	14	57	27	56	27	616
Men	63	18	56	30	57	30	761
Women	65	15	62	22	65	22	745
18-29	75	11	65	19	68	20	221
30-49	61	17	59	26	59	27	441
50-64	62	19	59	29	61	26	438
65+	60	17	54	27	58	29	375
White	58	20	55	30	55	30	1212
Black	88	4	83	5	93	3	131
Hispanic*	--	--	--	--	73	14	136
College grad+	63	22	58	31	59	29	558
Some college	65	14	62	23	58	27	410
HS or less	65	14	58	24	63	23	530
\$75,000 or more	56	24	51	37	58	31	427
\$30k-74,999	63	17	60	24	62	28	448
Less than \$30,000	73	9	69	16	67	18	379
Protestant	60	19	56	28	56	30	774
White evangelical	47	31	42	39	37	46	315
White mainline	57	17	54	28	54	28	313
Catholic	70	14	59	28	65	23	355
White non-Hisp	61	20	47	41	56	31	259
Unaffiliated	68	13	68	15	72	16	238

* Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization and includes Spanish language interviewing.

Congress Viewed More Favorably

Public evaluations of Congress have improved considerably since the beginning of the year. In the current survey, 50% say they hold a favorable view of Congress compared with 43% who express an unfavorable view.

Favorable ratings are up 10 points since January, when congressional favorability hit an all-time low in a Pew Research survey. Republicans and Democrats each express slightly better ratings of Congress than they did three months ago. However, the greatest shift in opinion has been among independents; in the current survey, 47% rate Congress favorably, up 15 points from January.

	Jan <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2009</u>	<i>Jan-Apr</i> <u>Change</u>
<i>% favorable</i>	%	%	
Total	40	50	+10
Republican	23	29	+6
Democrat	60	65	+5
Independent	32	47	+15

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 1,506 adults, 18 years of age or older, from March 31 – April 6, 2009 (1128 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 378 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 142 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. 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/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 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	1,506	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	750	4.0 percentage points
Form 2	756	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	358	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	460	5.5 percentage points
Independents	616	4.5 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
2009 EARLY APRIL VALUES SURVEY A
FINAL TOPLINE
 March 31-April 6, 2009
 N=1,506

ASK ALL SURVEY A [RANDOMIZE WITH Q.A2]:

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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early April, 2009	61	26	13=100
March, 2009	59	26	15=100
February, 2009	64	17	19=100

ASK ALL SURVEY A [RANDOMIZE WITH Q.1]:

Q.A2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis-</u> <u>fied</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>satisfied</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Opinion</u>		<u>Satis-</u> <u>fied</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>satisfied</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Opinion</u>
Early April, 2009	23	70	7=100	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100
January, 2009	20	73	7=100	July, 2004	38	55	7=100
December, 2008	13	83	4=100	May, 2004	33	61	6=100
Early October, 2008	11	86	3=100	Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6=100	Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100
August, 2008	21	74	5=100	December, 2003	44	47	9=100
July, 2008	19	74	7=100	October, 2003	38	56	6=100
June, 2008	19	76	5=100	August, 2003	40	53	7=100
Late May, 2008	18	76	6=100	April 8, 2003	50	41	9=100
March, 2008	22	72	6=100	January, 2003	44	50	6=100
Early February, 2008	24	70	6=100	November, 2002	41	48	11=100
Late December, 2007	27	66	7=100	September, 2002	41	55	4=100
October, 2007	28	66	6=100	Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100
February, 2007	30	61	9=100	May, 2002	44	44	12=100
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7=100	March, 2002	50	40	10=100
Early January, 2007	30	63	7=100	Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100
December, 2006	28	65	7=100	Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8=100	June, 2001	43	52	5=100
Early October, 2006	30	63	7=100	March, 2001	47	45	8=100
July, 2006	30	65	5=100	February, 2001	46	43	11=100
May, 2006	29	65	6=100	January, 2001	55	41	4=100
March, 2006	32	63	5=100	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7=100
January, 2006	34	61	5=100	September, 2000	51	41	8=100
Late November, 2005	34	59	7=100	June, 2000	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2005	29	65	6=100	April, 2000	48	43	9=100
July, 2005	35	58	7=100	August, 1999	56	39	5=100
Late May, 2005	39	57	4=100	January, 1999	53	41	6=100
February, 2005	38	56	6=100	November, 1998	46	44	10=100
January, 2005	40	54	6=100	Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100

Q.A2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100	September, 1993	20	75	5=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100	Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100	September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100	May, 1988	41	54	5=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100	January, 1988	39	55	6=100

QUESTIONS A3/A3A HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK SURVEY A FORM 1 ONLY [N=750]:

Q.A4 How much confidence do you have in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** to do the right thing when it comes to fixing the economy – a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all?

		A great <u>deal</u>	A fair <u>amount</u>	Not too <u>much</u>	No confidence <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Barack Obama January, 2009 ¹	32 33	38 42	13 14	13 7	4=100 4=100
b.F1	Democratic leaders in Congress	17	38	21	19	5=100
c. F1	Republican leaders in Congress	7	31	33	24	5=100

¹ Question was asked about Obama only, and it was rotated with items about confidence in Obama doing the right thing when it comes to “Iraq” and “preventing terrorist attacks.”

ASK SURVEY A FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:

Q.A5F2 Do you think Barack Obama has explained clearly his policies for improving the economy, or do you think he has not explained his policies clearly enough?

	Explained <u>clearly</u>	Not <u>clearly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early April, 2009	54	34	12=100

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly his plans for reforming Social Security, or do you think he has not explained his plans clearly enough?

	Explained <u>clearly</u>	Not <u>clearly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2005	25	65	10=100

Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly his plans for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or do you think he has not explained his plans clearly enough?

	Explained <u>clearly</u>	Not <u>clearly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 2005	28	68	4=100
December, 2003	35	59	6=100
October, 2003	32	63	5=100
September, 2003	30	63	7=100
March, 2003 ²	49	47	4=100
February, 2003	53	40	7=100
January, 2003	42	53	5=100
December, 2002	48	45	7=100
Late October, 2002	48	45	7=100
Mid-September, 2002	52	37	11=100
Late August, 2002	37	52	11=100

ASK SURVEY A FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:

Q.A6F2 Do you think Republicans in Congress have explained clearly why they oppose Obama’s economic policies, or have they not explained their position clearly enough?

	Explained <u>clearly</u>	Not <u>clearly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early April, 2009	25	59	16=100

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you think Democrats in Congress have explained clearly why they oppose Bush’s plans for reforming Social Security, or have they not explained their position clearly enough?

	Explained <u>clearly</u>	Not <u>clearly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2005	26	60	14=100

² From 2002 through March 2003, the question was worded: “Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly what’s at stake as to why the U.S. might use military force to end the rule of Saddam Hussein, or do you think he has not explained the reasons clearly enough?”

NO QUESTIONS A7 AND A8

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.A9F2 AND Q.A10F2:

ASK SURVEY A FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:

Q.A9F2 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama's policies will improve economic conditions in the country?

66	Optimistic
26	Pessimistic
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.A9F2 AND Q.A10F2:

ASK SURVEY A FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:

Q.A10F2 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama's policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term?

54	Optimistic
36	Pessimistic
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

NO QUESTIONS A11 OR A12

ASK ALL SURVEY A:

Q.A13 All in all, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business?

IF 'GOOD IDEA' (1 IN Q.A13) ASK [N=875]:

Q.A13a Is increased government regulation of major financial companies [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

BASED ON TOTAL FOR SURVEY A:

60	Good idea
34	Something you strongly support
21	Something you have reservations about
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
31	Bad idea
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL SURVEY A (APRIL 4-6) [N=884]:

Q.A14 As you may know, Barack Obama is traveling on his first overseas trip as president. From what you've read and heard, do you think Obama has done an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job of representing America's interests on this trip?

28	Excellent
35	Good
19	Only fair
9	Poor
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

NO QUESTION A15

QUESTIONS A16-A17 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK SURVEY A FORM 1 ONLY [N=750]:

Q.A18F1 If you were setting priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or [INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE]? Would you place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit or [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

ASK SURVEY A FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:

Q.A19F2 If you were setting priorities these days, would you place a higher priority on [INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE] or reducing the budget deficit? Would you place a higher priority on [INSERT NEXT ITEM] or reducing the budget deficit?

BASED ON TOTAL FOR SURVEY A:

	Spending <u>More</u>	Reducing the budget <u>deficit</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Spending more to make health care more accessible and affordable	59	35	6=100
b. Spending more to improve the education system	58	38	4=100
c. Spending more to develop new energy technology	49	45	6=100

NO QUESTION A20

ASK ALL SURVEY A:

Q.A21 I'd like to get your opinion of some groups and organizations. Is your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]** How about **(NEXT ITEM)?** **[IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Heard of	
a. The Republican Party								
Early April, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9=100
January, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5=100
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10=100
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7=100
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7=100
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8=100
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8=100
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10=100
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9=100
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7=100
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10=100
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6=100
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9=100
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9=100
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8=100
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6=100
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9=100
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6=100
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9=100
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6=100
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8=100
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10=100
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7=100
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4=100
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5=100
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6=100
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6=100
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7=100
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7=100
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6=100
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6=100
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5=100
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4=100
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6=100
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4=100
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11=100
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6=100

Q.A21 CONTINUED ...

b. The Democratic Party	---- 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
Early April, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7=100
January, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6=100
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10=100
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6=100
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6=100
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6=100
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8=100
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11=100
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11=100
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7=100
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11=100
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8=100
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10=100
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9=100
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9=100
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6=100
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10=100
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5=100
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8=100
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7=100
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9=100
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8=100
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5=100
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4=100
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5=100
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7=100
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6=100
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7=100
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6=100
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6=100
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6=100
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5=100
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3=100
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6=100
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4=100
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9=100
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6=100

NO ITEM C

**ASK SURVEY A
FORM 1 ONLY [N=750]:**

d.F1 Congress	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
Early April, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7=100
January, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8=100
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8=100
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8=100
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8=100
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13=100

Q.A21 CONTINUED ...

	---- 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
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9=100
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10=100
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11=100
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11=100
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11=100
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11=100
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7=100
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7=100
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3=100
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5=100
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4=100
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7=100
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5=100
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7=100
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3=100
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6=100
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6=100
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9=100
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8=100
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4=100
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5=100
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5=100
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4=100
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3=100
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7=100
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5=100
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9=100
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4=100
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9=100
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6=100
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8=100
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6=100
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8=100
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7=100
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6=100
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10=100
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7=100

**ASK SURVEY A
FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:**

e.F2 The Supreme Court								
Early April, 2009	64	8	56	21	6	15	0	15=100
April, 2008	65	15	50	25	7	18	*	10=100
July, 2007	57	12	45	29	9	20	0	14=100
January, 2007	72	18	54	17	3	14	2	9=100
July, 2006	63	7	56	27	8	19	1	9=100
February, 2006	60	16	44	28	10	18	*	12=100
Late October, 2005	62	12	50	27	10	17	*	11=100

Q.A21 CONTINUED ...

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never <u>Heard of</u>	Can't rate/ <u>Ref</u>
July, 2005	61	12	49	28	10	18	*	11=100
June, 2005	57	8	49	30	8	22	*	13=100
July, 2001	70	15	55	20	6	14	*	10=100
March, 2001	72	15	57	20	5	15	*	8=100
January, 2001	68	18	50	21	8	13	1	10=100
October, 1997	77	13	64	18	6	12	*	5=100
May, 1997	72	16	56	22	5	17	0	6=100
July, 1994	80	18	62	16	3	13	*	4=100
May, 1993	73	17	56	18	4	14	0	9=100
November, 1991	72	18	54	21	5	16	0	7=100
May, 1990	65	10	55	25	7	18	1	9=100
January, 1988	79	14	65	13	2	11	*	8=100
May, 1987	76	13	63	17	2	15	*	7=100
March 1985 (<i>Roper</i>)	64	17	47	28	7	21	--	8=100

ASK SURVEY A FORM 1 [N=750]:

Q.A22F1 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

	<u>Work together more</u>	<u>Bicker and oppose one another more than usual</u>	<u>Same as in past (VOL.)</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early April, 2009	25	53	8	14=100
January, 2009³	50	39	6	5=100
May, 2005	13	64	8	15=100
January, 2005	30	59	4	7=100
June, 2004	21	60	7	12=100
October, 2003	21	55	10	14=100
May, 2002	44	31	8	17=100
January, 2002	53	39	5	3=100
July, 2001	30	46	10	14=100
May, 2001	34	41	9	16=100
January, 2001	41	50	4	5=100
July, 2000	21	54	10	15=100
August, 1999	20	68	4	8=100
August, 1998	27	51	8	14=100
November, 1997	38	45	7	10=100
August, 1997	43	46	3	8=100
June, 1997	34	49	6	11=100
October, 1995	21	72	3	4=100
August, 1993	20	57	13	10=100

³ In surveys that were conducted in January of a given year the question was worded: "This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?"

ASK SURVEY A FORM 2 [N=756]:

Q.A23F2What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

		Jan <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Sept <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>
61	More politically divided	46	66	70	66
34	Not more divided	45	28	24	26
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other Party	(VOL.) DK/ Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Preference				
Early April, 2009	21	33	40	3	*	3=100	14	19
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2=100	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2=100	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3=100	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3=100	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3=100	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3=100	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2=100	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2=100	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2=100	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3=100	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2=100	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3=100	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2=100	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4=100	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3=100	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3=100	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2=100	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1=100	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1=100	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9=100	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9

PARTY/PARTYLN (CONT.) ...

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/ Ref	<i>Lean</i> <i>Rep</i>	<i>Lean</i> <i>Dem</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Preference</u>	<u>Party</u>			
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					