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**Obama's Ratings Are Flat, Wall Street's Are Abysmal**  
**MIDTERM ELECTION CHALLENGES FOR BOTH PARTIES**

**Also inside...**

- Dem favorability advantage fades
- Neither party seen as offering solutions
- Obama ratings steady, despite economy
- Stimulus support again declines
- More anger over bonuses than deficit

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## **Obama's Ratings Are Flat, Wall Street's Are Abysmal** **MIDTERM ELECTION CHALLENGES FOR BOTH PARTIES**

Nine months ahead of the midterm elections, voters have conflicted attitudes about both political parties. Opinions of the Republican Party have improved significantly, and for the first time in years the GOP's favorable ratings nearly equal the Democratic Party's. Voting intentions for the fall elections also remain closely divided. However, the Democratic Party is still better regarded in many respects than is the GOP and far more people continue to blame the Republicans than the Democrats for the current state of the economy. And despite frustrations with his stewardship of the economy, bottom-line opinions of Barack Obama have not changed in the past few months.

The wild card in voter opinion at this point is the level of anti-incumbent sentiment, which is as extensive as it has been in 16 years of Pew Research Center surveys. About three-in-ten voters (31%) say they do not want to see their own representative reelected, which is well above the average percentage expressing this view in 29 previous surveys (23%). The only recent midterm campaigns when anti-incumbent sentiment equaled its current levels were in 2006 and 1994 – which culminated in elections that changed the balance of power on Capitol Hill.

The climate of opinion today, however, is different than it was prior to those historic campaigns in two important ways. First, through most of the 2006 campaign the opposition party was viewed more favorably than the incumbent party. In 1994, both parties were favorably rated by substantial majorities of the public; currently, neither is.

<b>Difficult Political Terrain for Both Parties</b>				
	Nov <u>2006</u>	June <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
<b>2010 Midterm*</b>	%	%	%	%
Vote Democrat	48	52	47	45
Vote Republican	40	37	42	42
Other/Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
	Jan <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
<b>Favorable rating</b>	%	%	%	%
Democratic Party	62	59	49	48
Republican Party	40	40	40	46
	Oct <u>1994</u>	Jun <u>2002</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
<b>Want to see your incumbent reelected?*</b>	%	%	%	%
Yes	49	58	59	49
No	29	23	28	31
Not running/Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>19</u>
	100	100	100	100
	Oct <u>2009</u>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
<b>Obama job approval</b>	%	%	%	%
Approve	52	51	49	49
Disapprove	36	36	42	39
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100

\* Based on registered voters.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Second, opinions about Barack Obama are not nearly as negative as were views of George Bush in 2006 and are somewhat better than opinions of Bill Clinton were for much of 1994. Currently, slightly more voters say they think of their vote as a vote for Obama (24%) than

as a vote against him (20%). Throughout most of 2006, roughly twice as many said they were voting “against” Bush as “for” him. And in three surveys during the fall of 1994, slightly higher percentages said they thought of their vote as against Clinton rather than for him.

The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 3-9 among 1,383 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds continuing public dissatisfaction with the economy and disapproval of major policies to address it. Yet President Obama’s overall job approval ratings have remained steady in recent months. Currently, 49% approve and 39% disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president, which is largely unchanged from surveys since October.

<b>Democratic Favorability Advantage Fades</b>					
	<b>Democratic Party</b>		<b>Republican Party</b>		<i>Dem-Rep diff in % favorable</i>
	<i>Fav %</i>	<i>Un-fav %</i>	<i>Fav %</i>	<i>Un-fav %</i>	
Feb 2010	48	44	46	46	+2
Aug 2009	49	40	40	50	+9
Apr 2009	59	34	40	51	+19
Jan 2009	62	32	40	55	+22
<b><u>Previous elections</u></b>					
Oct 2008	57	33	40	50	+17
Oct 2006	53	36	41	50	+12
Jun 2004	54	36	51	40	+3
Dec 2002	54	37	59	33	-5
Sep 2000	60	35	53	40	+7
Oct 1998	56	38	52	42	+4
Jul 1994	62	34	63	33	-1

Q25a-b. 1998 and 2000 figures based on registered voters.

However, there is growing impatience with Obama’s handling of the economy, which most Americans continue to regard as the most important problem facing the nation. Currently, as many say Obama’s economic policies have made economic conditions worse (27%) as say those policies have made things better (24%). In most surveys last year, modestly higher percentages thought Obama’s policies had made conditions better rather than worse. Notably, a substantial proportion of Americans (45%) continue to say Obama’s policies have not had an effect so far or that it is too soon to tell – and that figure has not come down since October.

In the new survey, just 38% of Americans say they approve of Obama’s \$800 billion economic stimulus plan that Congress approved a year ago; 49% disapprove of the plan. In October, opinion about the stimulus was evenly divided and last June a clear majority (55%) approved of the plan.

Half of the public (50%) says Obama could be doing more to improve the economy, up from just 30% last March. Yet even more people expressed this view about George W. Bush throughout most of his first term. And in 1992, fully 76% said that Bush’s father, George H.W. Bush, could be doing more to improve economic conditions.

While Americans have grown more critical of Obama with regard to the economy, more still blame the Republican Party (39%) than the Democratic Party (27%) for current economic conditions.

Nonetheless, the Democratic advantage for dealing with the economy has all but disappeared. About four-in-ten (41%) say the Democratic Party could do a better job in dealing with the economy, while about as many (38%) say the GOP could do better. In August, Democrats held a 10-point lead as the party better able to deal with the economy (42% to 32%).

The same pattern is evident on several other issues – the Democrats have lost ground to the Republicans. Nonetheless, Democrats continue to lead by wide margins on education (by 19 points), health care (13 points) and energy problems (12 points). The Republican Party holds a modest advantage on reducing the budget deficit (six points) as well as a substantial – and growing – advantage in dealing with the terrorist threat at home (17 points). Just six months ago, the Republican Party’s lead in dealing with terrorism was six points.

Similarly, the Democrats’ advantage on several specific image traits has narrowed since 2009. But the Democrats continue to get better ratings than the Republicans on a number of key dimensions, including concern for the average person, the ability to bring about change, selecting better candidates for office and being less influenced by lobbyists and special interests. However, the GOP has drawn even with the Democrats as the party seen as better able to manage the federal government.

Over the past year, most of the GOP’s image gains have come from Republicans themselves and independents. Democrats for the most part remain loyal to their party and continue to overwhelmingly approve of Obama’s performance in office. Moreover, a majority of Democrats give their party high marks for standing up for traditional Democratic positions. Fully 63% of Democrats say their party has done an excellent or good job in standing up for the party’s traditional positions, such as protecting the interests of minorities and helping the poor and needy. That represents little change from last April, at about the 100-day point in Obama’s presidency.

<b>Current Views of Party Strengths: Issues and Image</b>			
	Dem <u>Party</u> %	Rep <u>Party</u> %	<i>Dem <u>adv.</u></i>
<b>Can do better job on issue of...</b>			
Education	48	29	+19
Health care	45	32	+13
Energy problems	44	32	+12
The economy	41	38	+3
The budget deficit	36	42	-6
Terrorist defenses	29	46	-17
<b>Which party...</b>			
Is more concerned about needs of people like me	51	31	+20
Can bring about the changes the country needs	46	34	+12
Selects better candidates for office	42	35	+7
Can better manage the federal government	40	40	0
Is more influenced by lobbyists & special interests	32	40	-8
Q64 & Q65. Figures read across.			

## Few Want Congress to Give Up on Health Bills

Most Americans (52%) say the Democratic Party has done a poor job in offering solutions to the country's problems; 40% say the Democrats have done a good job in proposing solutions. But the Republican Party gets even lower marks in this regard: 60% say the GOP has done a poor job offering solutions for national problems while only about half as many (29%) say the GOP has done well.

There are signs of public frustration as well with the lack of progress on health care legislation. More Americans continue to generally oppose (50%) than generally favor (38%) the health care bills being discussed in Congress. Yet only about a quarter of the public (26%) prefers that Congress pass nothing and leave the current system as it is. A majority (61%) either favors the current health care bills or would prefer that Congress keep working on a health care bill.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Favor current bills	38	14	65	33
Oppose current bills	50	79	24	54
Keep working on a bill	23	34	15	24
Pass nothing	26	44	9	28
Don't know	1	1	0	2
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q76 & 77. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opposition to increasing the size and influence of government and concern about the federal budget deficit have been key factors in opposition to the health care bills. Those concerns also are evident in other findings in the survey: As has been the case for the past year, more people say they would rather have a smaller government with fewer services (50%) than a bigger government with more services (40%).

Moreover, the public is now evenly divided over whether it is a good idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years. Fewer than half (46%) say this is a good idea, while 42% say it is not. Last March, by a wider margin (54% to 37%), Americans said it was a good idea for the government to exert more control over the economy. Opinion also is split over whether the higher priority

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
<b>Would you rather have...</b>				
Bigger gov't/More services	40	24	59	35
Smaller gov't/Fewer services	50	73	28	56
Depends/Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Gov't exerting more control over the economy is a...</b>				
Good idea	46	29	62	45
Bad idea	42	61	27	45
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>What should the priority be today?</b>				
Spending to help economy recover	47	34	57	51
Reducing the budget deficit	47	63	38	42
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q35F1, Q36F1, Q38F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

for the government should be more spending to help the economy recover (47%) or reducing the budget deficit (47%).

While the public is wary of too much government, it makes an exception when it comes to stricter regulation of major financial companies. A clear majority (59%) says it is a good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business; just 33% say this is a bad idea. Support for tougher regulation of financial firms is as high as it was last April (60% good idea).

There are other indications of a public backlash against large financial institutions. Just 25% say they have a favorable opinion of major U.S. banks and financial institutions while 68% have an unfavorable view. Negative views of large financial institutions are evident across political lines: 72% of Democrats, 68% of independents and 67% of Republicans have an unfavorable impression of such institutions.

Notably, there is considerably more public anger about banks and financial institutions paying large bonuses to their executives than there is over the government bailout of banks, partisan gridlock in Washington, or the growing budget deficit.

<b>Big Banks Are the Focus of Public's Anger</b>				
	<u>Bank bonuses</u>	<u>Banking bailout</u>	<u>Partisan gridlock</u>	<u>Budget deficit</u>
	%	%	%	%
Makes you angry	62	48	39	37
Bothers you*	24	38	36	48
Doesn't bother you	12	12	21	13
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

\* Bothers you but doesn't make you angry.  
Q66. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Fully 62% say they are angry over the large bonuses, while 48% say they are angry over the government bailing out financial institutions that made poor financial decisions. By comparison, fewer than half say they are angry over gridlock between Republicans and Democrats in Washington (39%) and the growing budget deficit (37%).

**Other important findings include:**

- Most Americans (61%) continue to favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Support for allowing gays to serve in the military has fluctuated very little since 2005.
- Favorable ratings of the Supreme Court slipped from 64% in April 2009 to 58% currently. The survey also finds broad opposition to the Court's recent decision allowing corporations to spend on behalf of candidates in elections; 68% disapprove of the decision while just 17% approve.

- The Tea Party movement gets a mixed review from the general public. A third (33%) say they have a favorable opinion of the Tea Party movement while 25% have an unfavorable opinion; a relatively large minority (42%) have never heard of the group or offer no opinion.
- The public cites economic problems as the most important ones facing the nation – 31% name unemployment, and 24% the economy generally. Healthcare and the budget deficit are named next most often (13% and 11% respectively)

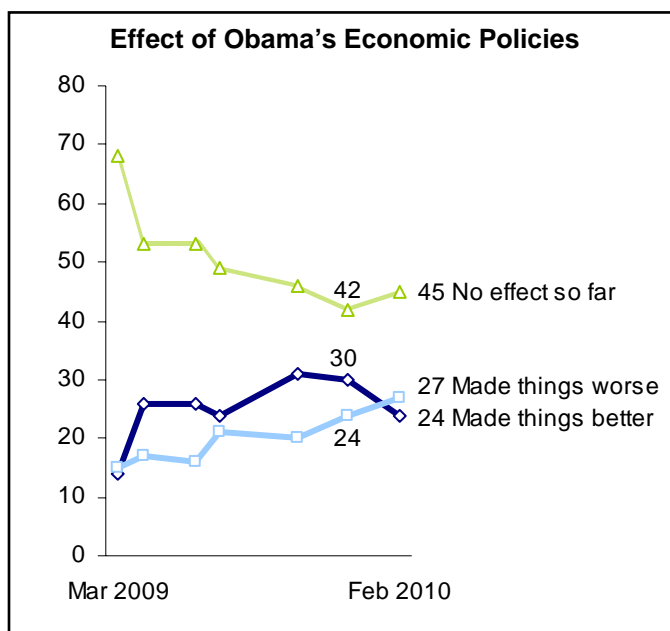
## SECTION 1: OPINIONS OF OBAMA

Barack Obama's job approval rating holds steady at 49% in the latest survey, with 39% saying they disapprove of the way he is handling his job as president. Obama's approval ratings have been mostly unchanged over the last six months, though there have been some significant shifts in opinion among independents.

Ratings of Obama's job performance among Democrats and Republicans are on par with his ratings over the last several months. About eight-in-ten Democrats (79%) now approve of the job Obama is doing, while just 17% of Republicans view Obama's job performance positively. Currently, 46% of independents approve of Obama's performance, up slightly from 39% last month.

### Views of Obama's Economic Policies

Americans are divided over whether Obama's economic policies have made economic conditions better (24%) or worse (27%). As has been the case over the past year, a plurality (45%) say his policies have not had an effect so far or that it is too soon to tell. The share saying Obama's policies have made things worse has grown slowly over the course of his presidency, from 15% in March of last year to 27% today. There has been a small decline in the proportion saying Obama's policies have made conditions better; today, 24% say this, down from 30% in December.



Views about the effect of Obama's policies differ considerably by party. Just 8% of Republicans say Barack Obama's policies have made economic conditions better (53% say they have made conditions worse, while 36% say they have not yet had an effect or that it is too soon to tell). By comparison, 38% of Democrats say Obama's policies have made economic conditions better (just 9% say they have made conditions worse, while 48% say they have not yet had an effect or that it is too soon to tell). Independents' views largely mirror those of the overall public.



## Is Obama Doing Enough to Improve the Economy?

The public also is divided over whether Obama is doing all he can to improve economic conditions. Half (50%) now say that Barack Obama could be doing more to improve economic conditions, while 43% say he is doing as much as he can.

In March 2009, the public's views of Obama's efforts on the economy were more positive; a majority (60%) said Obama was doing as much as he could. Nevertheless, assessments of Obama's efforts remain relatively positive when compared to those of his predecessors. Although they are slightly less positive than views of George W. Bush's efforts in January 2002, they are more positive than ratings of George W. Bush throughout the remainder of his first term and of George H.W. Bush in early 1992.

	Doing as much as he can	Could be doing more	DK
	%	%	%
<b>Barack Obama</b>			
February 2010	43	50	7=100
March 2009	60	30	10=100
<b>George W. Bush</b>			
February 2004	30	65	5=100
January 2003	33	61	6=100
January 2002	48	46	6=100
<b>George H. W. Bush</b>			
March 1992	21	76	3=100
January 1992	21	76	3=100

Q41F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

As was the case last year, there is a substantial partisan split on this question. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats (65%) say Obama is doing all he can, compared with 38% of independents and 22% of Republicans.

## Obama's Proposed Spending

There has been little change over the past year in opinions about Obama's proposed spending to address the economic situation: 35% say Obama has proposed spending too much money, 33% say his spending is about right while 20% say he has proposed spending too little.

Nearly six-in-ten (58%) Republicans say Obama has proposed too much spending, down from the 70% who said this in March of last year. The plurality of Democrats (46%) say Obama

has proposed the right amount of spending, which also is little changed from last year. However, the percentage of Democrats saying that Obama has not proposed enough spending has increased

	Too much	About right	Not enough	DK	N
	%	%	%	%	
February 2010	35	33	20	12=100	705
March 2009	39	34	13	14=100	1308
<i>February 2010 among...</i>					
Republican	58	18	16	8=100	198
Democrat	15	46	28	10=100	212
Independent	36	34	17	14=100	250
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75k or more	41	37	10	11=100	208
\$30k-74,999	41	29	23	8=100	229
Less than \$30,000	21	36	28	15=100	167

Q42F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

since March 2009 (28% today, up from 16%). As with the public overall, independents' opinions are divided, and have shifted little since last year.

## Obama's Agenda

About half of the public (47%) now says that there are too many issues on Barack Obama's agenda; 37% say he is focusing on about the right number of issues, while just 8% say he is focusing on too few issues. Over the course of the past year fewer Americans have come to think the number of issues on Obama's plate is "about right" while there has been an increase in the percentage who say he is now addressing too many issues. Republicans are the most likely to say Obama is addressing too many issues (65%); just 31% of Democrats say the president is addressing too many issues (as do 48% of independents).

Little Shift in Views of Obama's Focus, Counsel					
	April 2009	July 2009	Oct 2009	Dec 2009	Feb 2010
<i>So far do you think Obama is...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Addressing too many issues	34	41	45	45	47
Focusing on too few issues	4	3	9	8	8
Doing about right	56	48	41	42	37
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
	April 2009	June 2009	Oct 2009	Dec 2009	Feb 2010
<i>Obama is listening more to...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Liberals in his party	40	39	44	43	44
Moderates in his party	33	35	32	31	35
Don't know	<u>27</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Q33F1 & Q34. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

More Americans say Obama is listening to liberals in his party than to moderates (44% vs. 35%). There have been no substantial overall shifts in these views over the last several months. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (64%) say Obama is primarily listening to liberal Democrats, while just 23% say he is listening to moderates in the party. Conservative Republicans are particularly likely to hold this view; 72% say Obama is listening more to liberal Democrats. By contrast, moderate and liberal Republicans are somewhat more divided on this question; 47% say Obama listens primarily to liberals, while 34% say he listens more to moderates.

	Liberal	Moderate	DK	N
	Democrats	Democrats		
	%	%	%	
Total	44	35	21=100	1383
Republican	64	23	13=100	391
Conserv Rep	72	19	9=100	272
Mod/Lib Rep	47	34	19=100	110
Democrat	33	47	20=100	438
Conserv/Mod Dem	32	49	19=100	282
Liberal Dem	38	45	17=100	139
Independent	43	37	20=100	472

Q.34. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The plurality of Democrats (47%), in comparison, say that Obama is listening to their party's moderate wing; just a third (33%) say he listens more to liberals. There are no significant differences between liberal Democrats and their conservative and moderate co-partisans in these

views. Independents are split on this question; 43% say Obama listens more to liberal Democrats, while 37% say he listens more to moderates.

## SECTION 2: THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Voting intentions for this fall's midterm elections continue to be closely divided. Currently, 45% of registered voters say that if the election were held today they would vote for the Democratic candidate in their district, or lean to the Democrat, while 42% say they would for the Republican candidate or lean to the GOP candidate. Opinions about the 2010 election have fluctuated little since the summer.

At this stage in the 2006 midterm campaign, Democrats held a 50% to 41% advantage among registered voters. In Pew Research's final pre-election survey in November 2006, the Democrats led by eight points (48% to 40%).

Overwhelming majorities of Republican (91%) and Democratic voters (90%) continue to favor their party's candidate for Congress, while independents remain divided. In the current survey, 40% say they would vote for the Republican candidate, 33% for the Democratic candidate, while a relatively large proportion (27%) offer no opinion.

With nine months to go before the midterm election, a relatively large share of voters (31%) say that national issues will make the biggest difference in how they will vote. Indeed, about as many voters say national issues will be the biggest factor in their vote as cite the candidate's character and experience (30%) or local and state issues (27%).

	<u>Vote</u> <u>Republican</u> %	<u>Vote</u> <u>Democrat</u> %	<u>Other/</u> <u>DK</u> %
February 2010	42	45	13=100
January 2010	44	46	10=100
November 2009	42	47	11=100
August 2009	44	45	10=100
<hr/>			
February 2006	41	50	9=100
February 2002	46	45	9=100
January 1998	41	51	8=100
July 1994	45	47	8=100

Q8/Q9. Based on registered voters.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

	<u>Oct</u> <u>1994</u> %	<u>Oct</u> <u>1998</u> %	<u>Nov</u> <u>2002</u> %	<u>Nov</u> <u>2006</u> %	<u>Feb</u> <u>2010</u> %
<i>Biggest factor in vote for Congress</i>	38	39	38	29	27
Local/state issues	29	27	26	22	30
Candidate's character	22	20	23	34	31
National issues	3	5	7	6	5
Candidate's party	8	9	6	9	7
Other/None/DK	100	100	100	100	100

Q10. Based on registered voters.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

National issues also were regarded as important in the 2006 midterm: In the final pre-election survey by Pew Research Center in November, 34% of voters said national issues would make the biggest difference, more than the percentage citing other factors. But national issues were not as significant a factor for voters in earlier elections: In final pre-election surveys from 1994 to 2002, fewer than a quarter of voters said national issues would make the biggest difference in their vote.

In the current survey, there are only slight partisan differences in views about which factors are most important. Comparable percentages of Republicans (33%), Democrats (29%) and independents (27%) cite national issues as most important in their vote.

### Party Control Less of a Factor than in '06

While national issues are nearly as important a factor for voters now as in the closing days of the 2006 midterm, the question of which party controls Congress is less of a factor than it was two years ago. And substantially fewer voters see this fall's election as a referendum on the president as did so two years ago.

About half of voters (48%) say that the issue of which party controls Congress will be a factor in their vote while nearly as many (45%) say it will not. Throughout 2006, majorities consistently said party control would be a factor in their vote; in the final pre-election survey, 61% said the question of party control of Congress would be a factor. The current measure is in line with midterm campaigns in 1998 and 2002. In each campaign, the proportion saying the issue of which party controls Congress never surpassed 50%.

	Nov 1994	Oct 1998	Nov 2002	Nov 2006	Feb 2010
<i>Will party control be a factor in your vote?</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	--	46	48	61	48
No	--	50	49	36	45
Don't know		<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
		100	100	100	100
<i>Is your vote a vote...</i>					
For the president	17	20	29	21	24
Against the president	21	17	16	35	20
President not much of a factor	55	58	49	41	51
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Q13 & 14. Based on registered voters.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Currently, 24% say they think of their vote for Congress this fall as a vote for Barack Obama while 20% say they consider their vote as a vote against Obama; 51% say Obama is not much of a factor in their vote. President Bush was a much bigger factor in 2006: In the final election poll that year, 35% said they viewed their ballot as a vote against the president while 21% said their vote was for the president; just 41% said Bush would not be a factor.

Bush was much more of a positive factor in the 2002 midterm. In November that year, nearly twice as many voters said they considered the vote as one for Bush than against him (by 29% to 16%). In the two midterms during Bill Clinton's presidency, about as many said they viewed their vote as for the president as against him, with substantial majorities saying Clinton would not be much of a factor.

At this early stage in the 2010 campaign, 60% of Republican voters and 53% of Democratic voters say the issue of which party controls Congress will be factor in their vote. As is typically the case, far fewer independents (35%) see the question of which party controls Congress as a factor in their vote.

	Oct 1998	Nov 2002	Nov 2006	Feb 2010
<i>% saying party control will be a factor</i>	%	%	%	%
Total	46	48	61	48
Republican	53	54	65	60
Democrat	53	60	73	53
Independent	29	30	47	35

Q13. Based on registered voters.

Notably, fewer Democrats say partisan control of Congress is a factor in their voting decision than did so at the end of the 2006 campaign (53% today vs. 73% in November 2006). But in many ways, that election was unusual, for the high proportions of voters saying that party control of Congress and the president were factors in their votes.

In the closing days of the 2006 campaign, fully 65% of Democrats said they thought of their vote as a vote against Bush; in February 2006, 55% of Democrats expressed this view. Today, just 42% of Republicans see their congressional vote as a vote against Obama. Indeed, about as many Republicans say Obama will not be much of a factor in their vote (46%) as see their vote as against Obama (42%).

	<i>View vote as vote...</i>		
	For <u>pres</u>	Against <u>pres</u>	Pres not <u>a factor</u>
<b>Feb 2010</b>	%	%	%
Total	24	20	51
Republican	7	42	46
Democrat	49	3	43
Independent	14	19	62
<b>Nov 2006</b>			
Total	21	35	41
Republican	51	5	43
Democrat	3	65	29
Independent	11	35	51
<b>Nov 2002</b>			
Total	29	16	49
Republican	59	1	36
Democrat	9	32	54
Independent	21	14	60

Q14. Based on registered voters.

Bush also was a negative factor for independent voters in 2006: 35% said they thought of their vote as being against Bush while just 11% said their vote was for Bush. Today, 19% of independents say their vote would be a vote against Obama, while 14% say it would be a vote for him.

In November 2002, by comparison, relatively small percentages of Democrats (32%) and independents (14%) said they considered their vote as a vote against Bush. And nearly six-in-ten Republicans (59%) thought of their vote as being for Bush; today, 49% of Democrats say their vote would be a vote for Obama.

## Broad Anti-Incumbent Sentiment

Just 49% of voters say they would like to see their own congressional reelected this fall, while only about a third (32%) would like to see most members of Congress reelected. While these measures are largely unchanged from November, they are among the most negative attitudes toward congressional incumbents in two decades of Pew Research Center polling.

Anti-incumbent sentiment is currently at least as extensive today it was during 2006 and 1994 campaigns, when partisan control of Congress changed hands. At the end of the 2006 campaign, most voters (55%) wanted their own representative reelected while 37% wanted to see most members returned to Congress. Even late in the 1994 campaign, more voters wanted their own representative reelected than do so today (58% then, 49% today) and about the same percentage wanted most representatives reelected as do so currently (31% then, 32% today).

As expected, anti-incumbent sentiment remains particularly intense among Republicans and independents. Fewer than half of Republican voters (45%) and independent voters (43%) say they want to see their own representative reelected, compared with 60% of Democrats. These numbers are largely unchanged from November 2009.

	<i>Want to see re-elected...</i>			
	<b>Your representative</b>		<b>Most representatives</b>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>2010 Midterms</b>	%	%	%	%
Jan 2010	49	31	32	53
Nov 2009	52	29	34	53
<b>2006 Midterms</b>				
Nov 2006	55	25	37	46
Early Oct 2006	50	27	32	48
Jun 2006	51	32	29	57
Sep 2005	57	25	36	48
<b>2002 Midterms</b>				
Early Oct 2002	58	19	39	38
Jun 2002	58	23	45	37
<b>1998 Midterms</b>				
Late Oct 1998	64	19	41	37
Early Oct 1998	58	20	39	39
Mar 1998	63	21	45	41
Aug 1997	66	22	45	42
<b>1994 Midterms</b>				
Nov 1994	58	25	31	51
Early Oct 1994	49	29	28	56
<b>1990 Midterms</b>				
Oct 1990*	62	22	--	--

Q11 & Q12. Based on registered voters.  
 Figures read across. See topline for complete trends.  
 \* 1990 data from Gallup.

## SECTION 3: VIEWS OF THE PARTIES

### Democrats Lose Favorability Edge

The favorability advantage the Democratic Party has held over the Republican Party has disappeared over the past year. Currently, 48% of Americans offer a favorable assessment of the Democratic Party, while 46% view the GOP favorably. This reflects a combination of a steep decline in the Democratic Party's image over the first half of 2009, and a more modest uptick in the GOP's image more recently.

For the first time since a brief spike in positive opinion in the week following the Republican Convention in 2008, as many Americans view the GOP favorably as unfavorably (46% each). For the better part of four years, GOP favorability has held steady at around 40%, with half or more expressing an unfavorable view of the party. The last time the Republican Party's ratings were substantially higher than they are today was in 2004.

Republicans are happier with their party than they were in early 2009. A year ago, just 74% of Republicans gave their own party a favorable rating; 82% do so today. But the GOP also looks somewhat better to Democrats than was the case in August (23% favorable today, 16% in August). There has been little change in the assessments of independents; 42% of independents now view the GOP favorably, compared with 49% who view it unfavorably.

There has been little change in the Democratic Party's overall image over the past six months; today 48% view the party favorably and 44% unfavorably, little changed from a 49% to 40% division in August 2009. But favorability ratings of the Democratic Party had dropped steeply in the early part of 2009 – from 62% to 49% between January and August of last year.

The downturn in ratings of the Democratic Party over the course of the year is driven by increasingly negative reactions from both Republicans and independents.

In particular, the share of independents who rate the Democratic Party favorably fell from 58% last January to 40% both last August and today. As a result, independents' ratings of the GOP (42% favorable, 49% unfavorable) and the Democratic Party (40% favorable, 50% unfavorable) are virtually identical today.

<b>Republicans Happier with Their Party, Independents Rate Both Parties Poorly</b>					
	Jan <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>	Jan 09- Feb 10 <i>change</i>
<b>Republican Party</b>	%	%	%	%	
Total favorable	40	40	40	46	+6
Republicans	74	79	78	82	+8
Democrats	22	18	16	23	+1
Independents	38	41	40	42	+4
<b>Democratic Party</b>					
Total favorable	62	59	49	48	-14
Republicans	30	24	17	18	-12
Democrats	90	91	85	84	-6
Independents	58	52	40	40	-18
Q25a-b.					



The Democratic Party had consistently enjoyed a favorability advantage over the past four years. In fact, in January of last year, the 22-point difference between ratings of the Democratic Party (62% favorable) and the Republican Party (40% favorable) was the largest gap in Pew Research Center polling since 1992. The combination of Democratic declines and Republican gains over the past year has resulted in the smallest gap in party ratings since July 2005.

## Party Images

Americans offer a wide range of responses when asked to describe in their own words what the political parties stand for these days. Some of the most common descriptions of the Republican Party are negative – that it is for the rich, corporate interests and greed, or that it is only looking out for its own political interests. By contrast, the most common descriptions of the Democratic Party are that it stands for the average person, the middle class or working class Americans. Critics, though, say the party stands for bigger government and more spending, and socialism or communism.

<b>Impressions of the Parties, in Their Own Words</b>	
<b>What the Republican Party stands for:</b>	
For the rich/Against the working class or poor	7
Money or Greed	6
Doing what is best for themselves	6
For big business/Corporate interests	5
Anti-Obama/Anti-Democrats/Obstructionist/Party of 'No'	4
Conservatism/Conservative values	4
For smaller government/Less government control	4
Unclear what they stand for/Nothing/Not much	3
For cutting taxes	3
Concern for the country or people	3
Want more jobs/Improve the economy	2
For less government spending/Fiscal responsibility	2
Against terrorism/For national security	2
<b>What the Democratic Party stands for:</b>	
For average person/Middle class	12
For big government/Higher spending/More programs	7
For working class/Poor/People who need help	6
Doing what is best for themselves	5
For Socialism or Communism	5
For equality/Equal rights/Level playing field	4
Health care reform	4
Liberal agenda/Progressive agenda	3
Want more jobs/Improve the economy	3
Unclear what they stand for/Nothing/Not much	3
Change	3
Higher taxes	3
Making nation stronger/Solving problems	2
For more government control	2
Q27a-b. Based on open-ended questions.	

## Neither Party Seen as Offering Solutions

While favorability ratings of the Republican Party now rival the Democrats, the party gets poor ratings for its political performance. Just 29% of Americans say the Republican Party has done a good job of offering solutions to the country's problems over the past year – twice that number (60%) say they have done a poor job. The Democratic Party does only somewhat better – 40% good job, 52% poor job.

The Republican Party lags in this measure because Republicans themselves are far from enthusiastic about how their leaders have performed. Just 54% of Republicans say that their party has done a good job of offering solutions to the country's problems over the past year. This compares with 70% of Democrats who say their party has done a good job in this regard.

As with overall favorability, independents are equally sour toward both parties; just three-in-ten (30%) say the GOP has done a good job of offering solutions to the country's problems over the past year, and 36% say the same about the Democrats.

In terms of both favorability and performance, the Republican Party in 2010 lags far behind where the party stood in early 1994, when it went on to win majorities in both the House and Senate later in the year. Fully 63% of Americans had a favorable impression of the GOP in July 1994 – on par with the Democrats' positive image (62% favorable) at the time. And in March 1994, 41% felt the GOP had done a good job of offering solutions to the country's problems, compared with 29% who say this about the Republican Party today.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<b>Republican Party</b>	%	%	%	%
Good job	29	54	13	30
Poor job	60	36	81	59
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Democratic Party</b>				
Good job	40	12	70	36
Poor job	52	83	24	55
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q28FA & Q29FB.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

	July <u>1994</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
<b>Overall image</b>	%	%
Favorable	63	46
Unfavorable	33	46
Don't know/Can't rate	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100
	Mar <u>1994</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
<b>Offering solutions to the country's problems</b>	%	%
Good job	41	29
Poor job	51	60
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100

Q25a & Q28FA. March 1994 data from Gallup.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

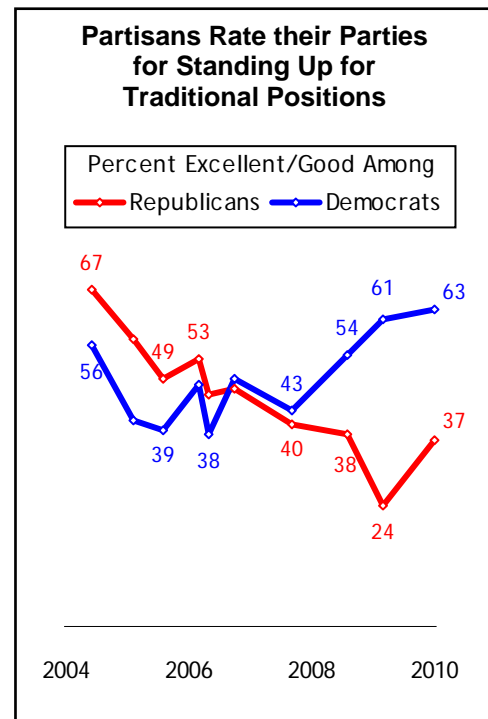
## Democrats Satisfied With Party's Performance

While the Democratic Party has lost some of its advantages over the GOP over the past year, there is little evidence that Democrats themselves are becoming dissatisfied with their party's performance. Fully 84% of Democrats continue to offer a favorable assessment of the party, down only slightly from a year ago (90% in January 2009). There is, however, a more substantial drop in the number rating the party *very* favorably: from 35% a year ago to 20% today.

At the same time, 63% of Democrats continue to say that the party is doing an excellent or a good job of standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people. This is virtually unchanged from last April (61%) and represents a continuing upward trend in Democratic ratings from 54% in September 2008 and 43% in October 2007.

While Republicans are substantially happier with their party now than they were last April, most Republicans still offer a negative assessment of party leaders when it comes to traditional party issues. The number of Republicans who believe the party is doing an excellent or good job standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values rose from 24% last April to 37% today. But 61% say that the party's leaders are doing only a fair or a poor job in this regard.

There are no substantial ideological divides within either party in rating their party's performance on traditional issues. Comparable percentages of conservative Republicans (63%) and moderate and liberal Republicans (57%) offer critical assessments of the GOP's performance on traditional party positions. Among Democrats, wide majorities of both liberal (61%) and moderate and conservative (64%) Democrats offer positive ratings for the party.



## Who Wants Compromise?

There is far more of a partisan gap in willingness to compromise today than was the case a few years ago. Just 52% of Americans who believe the GOP can do the best job of handling the nation's most important issue say they think Republican leaders should be willing to compromise on that issue with Democrats. This is down from 63% in January of 2007, after the Democrats regained control of the House and Senate.

By contrast, Democratic supporters are overwhelmingly supportive of compromise. Roughly seven-in-ten (71%) Americans who believe the Democrats can do a better job on the nation's most important issue say that party leaders should be willing to compromise on that issue, up from 60% three years ago.

<b>GOP Backers Show Less Taste for Compromise</b>		
	Jan <u>2007</u> %	Feb <u>2010</u> %
<b>Among those who say the GOP can do the best job</b>		
<i>Republican leaders should...</i>		
Be willing to compromise	63	52
Stick to their positions	30	39
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100
<b>Among those who say the Dems can do the best job</b>		
<i>Democratic leaders should...</i>		
Be willing to compromise	60	71
Stick to their positions	34	24
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100

Q19 & Q20. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Party Strengths

While the Democratic Party continues to maintain an edge on most issues, the GOP has narrowed many of the gaps in public assessments of the parties' relative capabilities over the past six months. The proportion saying the GOP is better able to handle the economy has risen six points (from 32% to 38%), and there have been similar increases in the share preferring the Republican Party on the issues of deficit reduction (from 35% to 42%), education (22% to 29%), energy (25% to 32%) and dealing with terrorist threat at home (38% to 46%). On all of these issues, there has been no significant change in the number saying the Democrats can do the better job.

As a result of these GOP gains, Republicans now lead (42% vs. 36%) as the party viewed as better able to reduce the budget deficit; six months ago the parties were virtually tied (36% Democrats, 35% Republicans). In addition, the GOP has widened its lead as the party seen as better able to deal with terrorist threats, from six points last August to 17 points (46% vs. 29%) today.

On most other issues, Democrats hold substantially narrower leads today than they did last August. Roughly as many now choose the Republican Party (38%) as the Democratic Party (41%) to better handle the economy, and Republicans have gained ground on health care and energy.

### Democrats Still Favored on Most Issues, But Advantage Has Slipped

<i>Which party can do a better job of...</i>	Dem Party %	Rep Party %	Both/ Neither/ DK %	Dem adv.
<b>Improving education</b>				
February 2010	48	29	24	+19
August 2009	47	22	30	+25
February 2008	55	26	19	+29
October 2006	45	27	28	+18
September 2005	44	35	21	+9
July 2004	45	29	26	+16
<b>Reforming health care</b>				
February 2010	45	32	23	+13
August 2009	46	27	27	+19
February 2008	56	26	18	+30
October 2006	46	25	29	+21
September 2005	51	28	21	+23
July 2004	50	23	27	+27
<b>Dealing w/ energy</b>				
February 2010	44	32	24	+12
August 2009	47	25	28	+22
February 2008	57	23	20	+34
October 2006	44	28	28	+16
September 2005	44	31	25	+13
<b>Dealing w/ the economy</b>				
February 2010	41	38	20	+3
August 2009	42	32	27	+10
February 2008	53	34	13	+19
October 2006	45	32	23	+13
September 2005	44	38	18	+6
July 2004	46	34	20	+12
<b>Reducing federal deficit</b>				
February 2010	36	42	21	-6
August 2009	36	35	29	+1
September 2006	47	27	26	+20
October 2005	47	29	24	+18
<b>Dealing with the terrorist threat at home</b>				
February 2010	29	46	25	-17
August 2009	32	38	31	-6
February 2008	38	45	17	-7
October 2006	33	39	28	-6
September 2005	34	45	21	-11
July 2004	30	45	25	-15

Q65a-f. Figures read across, and may not add to 100% because of rounding..

The same pattern is evident when it comes to many public assessments of the parties' relative strengths. For example, in August just 25% said the Republican Party could bring about needed change, while 47% said the Democratic Party. Today, 34% select the GOP as the party of change, while the proportion choosing the Democrats has not changed (46%).

The Republican Party has pulled even with the Democratic Party in terms of who can better manage the government (40% Democrats, 40% Republicans). The GOP still trails the Democratic Party in assessments of which selects better candidates for office (35% Republican Party, 42% Democratic Party), but the Democratic Party's lead on this trait is considerably narrower than it was six months ago. The GOP continues to be viewed as the party more often influenced by lobbyists and special interests; 40% say this better describes the Republican Party compared with 32% for the Democratic Party.

<b>GOP Image Improves Across Most Traits</b>				
<i>Which party...</i>	Dem	Rep	Both/ Neither/ DK	<i>Dem adv.</i>
<b>Is more concerned about people like me</b>	<u>Party</u> %	<u>Party</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	
February 2010	51	31	18	+20
August 2009	51	27	21	+24
October 2007	54	25	21	+29
October 2006	55	27	18	+28
October 2005	52	30	18	+22
July 2004	50	30	20	+20
<b>Can bring needed change</b>				
February 2010	46	34	20	+12
August 2009	47	25	27	+22
October 2007	48	26	26	+22
October 2006	48	28	24	+20
October 2005	48	32	20	+16
July 2004	46	35	19	+11
<b>Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests</b>				
February 2010	32	40	27	-8
August 2009	31	37	32	-6
March 2007	30	40	30	-10
October 2006	27	41	32	-14
April 2006	28	45	27	-17
<b>Selects better candidates</b>				
February 2010	42	35	23	+7
August 2009	46	28	27	+18
October 2007	41	32	27	+9
<b>Can better manage the government</b>				
February 2010	40	40	21	+0
August 2009	38	34	28	+4
October 2007	44	32	24	+12
October 2006	44	34	22	+10
October 2005	41	35	24	+6
July 2004	40	37	23	+3

Q64a-e. Figures read across, and may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Independents' evaluations of the political parties have shifted substantially on many issues since last year. The proportion of independents who think the Republican Party can better handle the economy has increased from 27% to 37% since August. Currently, independents rate the two parties about evenly on the economy; last August, the Democrats were favored by 11 points on this issue. Similarly, wide Democratic leads among independents on the issues of education and energy have been reduced, as confidence in the GOP among independents has risen.

And on two key issues, the deficit and terrorism – the GOP has opened large leads among independents. In August, roughly as many independents favored the Democratic Party (30%) as the Republican Party (33%) to better reduce the budget deficit. Today, the GOP holds a 42% to 28% lead on this issue among independents. And while the GOP held a slim edge (33% to 27%) among independents as the party better able to deal with the terrorist threat at home, its advantage has grown to a 48% to 19% lead in the latest poll.

A similar pattern is seen in evaluations of leadership traits. For example, the proportion of independents saying the GOP can better manage the federal government rose from 29% to 43% since August, opening up a 12-point Republican advantage on this trait.

<b>Independents' Views Shift</b>		
<i>Can do better job on issue of...</i>	Aug <u>2009</u> %	Feb <u>2010</u> %
<b>Education</b>		
Democratic Party	41	44
Republican Party	15	30
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	+26	+14
<b>Energy problems</b>		
Democratic Party	45	40
Republican Party	22	29
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	+23	+11
<b>Health care</b>		
Democratic Party	36	40
Republican Party	26	30
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	+10	+10
<b>The economy</b>		
Democratic Party	38	34
Republican Party	27	37
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	+11	-3
<b>The budget deficit</b>		
Democratic Party	30	28
Republican Party	33	42
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	-3	-14
<b>Terrorist defenses</b>		
Democratic Party	27	19
Republican Party	33	48
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	-6	-29
<b>Can better manage the federal government</b>		
Democratic Party	32	31
Republican Party	29	43
<i>Dem-Rep difference</i>	+3	-12
<small>Figures read down. Based on independents. Q64 &amp; Q65.</small>		

## Views of the Tea Party Movement

More Americans express a favorable (33%) than unfavorable (25%) view of the Tea Party movement, but a large plurality of Americans (42%) either have never heard of the movement or if they have heard of it do not have an opinion.

Republicans are somewhat more likely to offer an opinion of the Tea Party movement, and their opinion is overwhelmingly favorable (51% vs. 10% unfavorable). This is driven by particularly favorable opinions (59%) among conservative Republicans. Among Democrats, just 21% offer a favorable assessment of the Tea Party movement, while 37% see it unfavorably. The balance of opinion is most negative among liberal Democrats, 46% of whom offer an unfavorable assessment. More independents see the Tea Party movement favorably (34%) than unfavorably (24%).

Men are slightly more likely than women to view the Tea Party movement favorably (37% vs. 30%). There is little difference in the balance of opinion across age groups. The movement's negatives are higher among more educated Americans: 32% of college graduates view the Tea Party movement unfavorably, compared with just 19% of people who did not attend college.

	Favor- <u>able</u> %	Unfavor- <u>able</u> %	Never heard of/ <u>Can't rate</u> %	<i>Fav- unfav diff</i>
All	33	25	42=100	+8
Republican	51	10	39=100	+41
Conserv	59	11	30=100	+48
Mod/Lib	35	10	54=100	+25
Democrat	21	37	42=100	-16
Cons/Mod	23	34	43=100	-11
Liberal	18	46	36=100	-28
Independent	34	24	41=100	+10
<i>2010 Midterm</i>				
Rep/Lean Rep	57	9	33=100	+48
Dem/Lean Dem	19	42	39=100	-23
Men	37	24	39=100	+13
Women	30	25	45=100	+5
18-29	36	24	40=100	+12
30-49	30	25	45=100	+5
50-64	36	25	39=100	+11
65+	31	24	45=100	+7
College grad+	34	32	34=100	+2
Some college	33	25	42=100	+8
HS or less	33	19	48=100	+14
\$75,000+	38	27	35=100	+11
\$30-\$74,999	37	27	36=100	+10
Under \$30,000	29	22	48=100	+7
Q25I. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				



## SECTION 4: ECONOMIC POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

In the year since Congress passed Barack Obama's economic stimulus bill, the public has steadily grown less supportive of the plan. Nearly half of Americans (49%) now disapprove of the \$800 billion package, while just 38% approve of the measure. In October, opinion was evenly divided (44% approved, 44% disapproved). Last June, a 55% majority approved and 39% disapproved.

### Support for Stimulus Continues to Fall

	Jun 2009	Oct 2009	Feb 2010
<i>\$800 billion stimulus plan passed by Congress...</i>	%	%	%
Approve	55	44	38
Disapprove	39	44	49
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100

Q48F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While opinions remain divided along partisan lines, support for the stimulus plan has dropped among Republicans, independents and Democrats alike. The share of Democrats who approve of the stimulus has fallen from 78% to 60% since June of last year. The already low 27% approval among Republicans has slipped to just 13% over the same time period. A slim majority of independents (52%) supported the stimulus in June, but the balance of opinion is negative today (48% disapprove and 39% approve).

### Stimulus Support Drops Across Party Lines

	Jun 2009	Oct 2009	Feb 2010	Jun-Feb change
<i>Percent approve of stimulus bill</i>	%	%	%	
Total	55	44	38	-17
Republican	27	17	13	-14
Democrat	78	69	60	-18
Independent	52	40	39	-13
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	51	40	38	-13
\$30k-\$74,999	57	45	41	-16
Less than \$30,000	59	50	38	-21

Q48F1.

### Bank Bailout Now Seen as Wrong Decision

Much like the stimulus plan, the government's decision in 2008 to make loans to secure financial institutions also faces greater public opposition today than it did nearly a year ago. About half (51%) now say it was the wrong thing for the government to make loans of roughly \$700 billion to keep financial institutions and markets secure, while 40% say it was the right thing to do. Last March, nearly half (48%) said it was the right thing for the government to do, while 40% said it was the wrong thing.

### More Negative Views of Bank Bailout

	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Dec 2008	Mar 2009	Feb 2010
<i>Gov't loans of \$700B to secure financial markets</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Right thing	45	47	47	48	40
Wrong thing	38	37	43	40	51
Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Q49F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opposition to the bailout has increased mostly among Democrats and independents. Independents were divided over the bailout in March 2009 (46% right thing, 42% wrong thing);

today independents oppose the plan by a 56% to 36% margin. Over the same time period, opposition to the loans among Democrats has increased from 23% to 36%. Among Republicans, 62% opposed the bailout last March, as do 67% today.

### Views of Government's Role

As has been the case since last March, more Americans say they prefer a smaller government providing fewer services (50%) rather than a bigger government providing more services (40%). At the same time, support for government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years is down somewhat from roughly a year ago. Americans are now evenly divided on whether it is a good idea (46%) or a bad idea (42%) for greater government involvement in the economy.

As expected, most Republicans (73%) say they would rather have a smaller government with fewer services; a majority of independents (56%) agree. Most Democrats (59%) favor a bigger government providing more services.

Republicans and Democrats also hold opposing views on whether the government should exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years. About six-in-ten Republicans (61%) say this is a bad idea, while roughly the same percentage of Democrats (62%) think it is a good idea. Independents are divided: 45% take a negative view of greater government control over the economy, while the same percentage sees this as a good idea.

<b>Public Favors Smaller Government – And Stricter Regulation of Financial Firms</b>			
	Mar <u>2009</u>	Oct <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Rather have...</i>			
Smaller government/fewer services	48	51	50
Bigger government/more services	40	40	40
Depends (Vol.)	3	4	3
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Gov't exerting more control over the economy right now</i>			
Good idea	54	--	46
Bad idea	37	--	42
Don't know	<u>9</u>	--	<u>11</u>
	100		100
<i>Stricter regulation of financial companies</i>	Apr <u>2009</u>	Oct <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
Good idea	60	54	59
Bad idea	31	38	33
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100
Q35F1/Q36F1/Q37F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

Despite the public's reservations over more government control over the economy, there is substantial support for the government to more strictly regulate the way financial companies do business. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) say this is a good idea, compared with 33% who see stricter financial regulations as a bad idea.

Nearly eight-in-ten Democrats (79%) say that stricter government regulations of financial firms are a good idea. But there is much less support for this idea among independents (52%

good idea). As many Republicans see tougher regulations on financial firms as a bad idea (48%) as a good idea (45%).

### Most Angry About Executive Bonuses

More than six-in-ten Americans (62%) say the large bonuses paid to executives of some banks and financial institutions makes them angry. This is substantially more than say they are angry about bailing out banks and financial institutions that made poor decisions (48% angry). Comparatively, anger about the gridlock between Republicans and Democrats in Congress (39%) and the growing federal budget deficit (37%) is less widespread.

Anger over the bank bonuses crosses party lines. Still, somewhat more Democrats (72%) than independents (61%) or Republicans (57%) say the bonuses for financial executives make them angry.

<b>Bank Bonuses Generate Widespread Anger</b>				
	<u>Bank bonuses</u>	<u>Bank bailouts</u>	<u>Partisan gridlock</u>	<u>Growing deficits</u>
	%	%	%	%
Makes you angry	62	48	39	37
Bothers you*	24	38	36	48
Doesn't bother you	12	12	21	13
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Percent angry among...</b>				
Republicans	57	60	33	49
Democrats	72	41	40	25
Independents	61	49	44	41

\*Bothers you but doesn't make you angry.  
Q66. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Close to half (48%) of the public says the federal bailout of major banks and financial institutions makes them angry. This is the same as the percentage that expressed anger over the bailout in March 2009. A much higher share of Republicans (60%) than Democrats (41%) or independents (49%) say the government bailouts of banks and financial institutions makes them angry.

About four-in-ten Americans (39%) say the gridlock in Washington between Democrats and Republicans makes them angry. Independents (44%) are somewhat more likely than Republicans (33%) to express anger over partisan gridlock; 40% of Democrats say they are angry over gridlock in Washington.

Roughly the same percentage (37%) says that growing federal deficits make them feel angry, which is unchanged from March 2009. Far more Republicans (49%) and independents (41%) than Democrats (25%) express anger over growing deficits.

## Banks Viewed Unfavorably

Most Americans (68%) say they have an unfavorable opinion of major U.S. banks and financial institutions. Within that group, 29% say they have a *very* unfavorable opinion of these businesses and 39% say they have a *mostly* unfavorable opinion.

None of the other business sectors tested elicits such negative opinions. Public opinion toward U.S. automakers is divided (43% favorable, 45% unfavorable). Technology companies, by contrast, are viewed favorably by 71% of Americans with just 13% expressing an unfavorable opinion.

The negative opinions of major U.S. banks and financial institutions are shared across the partisan spectrum. About seven-in-ten Democrats (72%) say they have an unfavorable opinion of these businesses, as do 68% of independents and 67% of Republicans.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
<i>Major U.S. banks and financial institutions</i>				
Favorable	25	27	21	27
Unfavorable	68	67	72	68
DK/Can't rate	7	6	8	5
	100	100	100	100
<i>U.S. automakers</i>				
Favorable	43	42	41	47
Unfavorable	45	49	48	42
DK/Can't rate	12	9	11	11
	100	100	100	100
<i>Tech companies</i>				
Favorable	71	74	66	76
Unfavorable	13	12	17	10
DK/Can't rate	16	14	17	14
	100	100	100	100

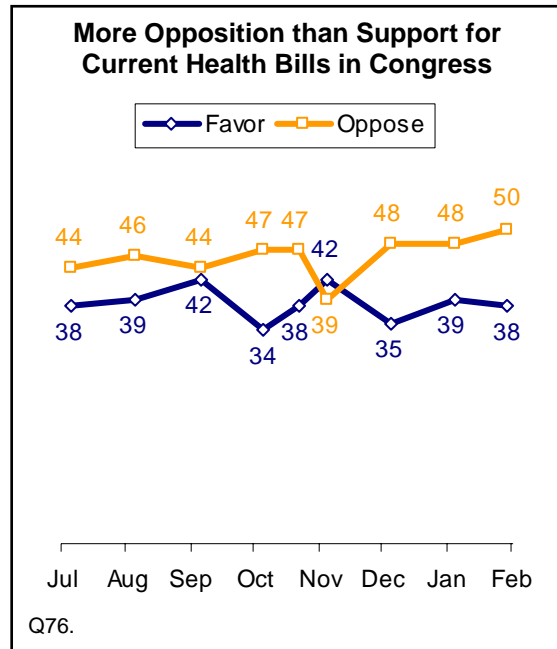
Q25e-h. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

There also are no significant partisan differences in views of U.S. automakers; 47% of independents have a favorable opinion of U.S. automakers as do 42% of Republicans and 41% of Democrats. And solid majorities across party lines hold a favorable impression of technology companies.

## SECTION 5: HEALTH CARE, GAYS IN THE MILITARY, SUPREME COURT

### Opposition to Current Health Bills; But Desire for Legislation

More Americans continue to oppose (50%) than favor (38%) the health care bills currently being discussed in Congress. Opposition to health care legislation has been relatively stable in recent months, with opponents outnumbering supporters by similar margins in five of the last six Pew Research surveys since October. However, the current polls finds that almost half of the people who oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress – 23% of Americans overall – say they would like to see Congress keep working on a health care bill. About a quarter of Americans (26%) oppose the current bills and want Congress to pass nothing, leaving the current system as it is.



As has consistently been the case, there are stark divisions between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to health care legislation. By a 79%-14% margin Republicans overwhelmingly oppose the current legislation in Congress, while Democrats favor it by a 65% to 24% margin. Among independents, more oppose (54%) than favor (33%) the bills being discussed in Congress. The balance of opinion within all three partisan groups is virtually unchanged in recent months.

Nonetheless, significant percentages of Republicans (34%) and independents (24%) say that while they oppose the current legislation, they would prefer to see Congress keep working on a health care bill than do nothing. A 44% plurality of Republicans say they would prefer to see Congress pass nothing and leave the current system as it is. Far fewer independents (28%) take this view, as do just 8% of Democrats.

**What Congress Should Do About Health Care**

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Favor current bills	38	14	65	33
Oppose current bills	50	79	24	54
Keep working on a bill	23	34	15	24
Pass nothing	26	44	9	28
Don't know	1	1	0	2
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q76 & 77. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Most Favor Gays Serving Openly

By a two-to-one margin, more Americans favor than oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military. Currently, 61% favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly, while 27% are opposed. There has been a modest drop in opposition over the past year. In March 2009 and two earlier polls, 32% of Americans opposed allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly. The current survey was conducted in the week following a congressional hearing in which Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, voiced support for Obama's call to end the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Older Americans continue to express less support for gays serving openly than do younger age groups. Nonetheless, a plurality (46%) of those 65 and older favor the change in policy, while 34% are opposed. Younger Americans remain strongly in favor, with 71% of 18-29-year-olds in support of gays serving openly and just 21% opposed.

Roughly two-thirds of both Democrats (67%) and independents (65%) support allowing gays to serve openly in the military, with just under a quarter in both groups opposed. Nearly half (47%) of Republicans also say they are in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while 41% are opposed. These figures are largely unchanged from previous polls in 2009 and 2006. In March of last year, Republicans were also split evenly on this issue (45% favor, 48% oppose) and this was the case in March of 2006 as well (46% favor, 46% oppose).

### Consistent Support for Allowing Gays to Serve Openly in the Military

<i>Allow gays/lesbians to serve openly</i>	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
February 2010	61	27	12=100
March 2009	59	32	9=100
March 2006	60	32	8=100
July 2005	58	32	10=100
July 1994	52	45	3=100

Q78. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Opinion about Gays in the Military

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	61	27	12=100
18-29	71	21	8=100
30-49	61	28	11=100
50-64	61	27	11=100
65+	46	34	20=100
Men	55	33	12=100
18-49	57	32	11=100
50+	52	35	14=100
Women	66	22	12=100
18-49	73	19	8=100
50+	58	26	16=100
White, non Hispanic	61	26	12=100
Black, non Hispanic	61	27	13=100
Republican	47	41	12=100
Conserv Rep	40	49	11=100
Mod/Lib Rep	63	23	14=100
Democrat	67	22	11=100
Cons/Mod Dem	65	27	9=100
Liberal Dem	75	13	12=100
Independent	66	24	11=100
Total Protestant	54	34	12=100
White evangelical	41	45	14=100
White mainline	67	23	9=100
Total Catholic	64	24	12=100
White non-Hisp	65	21	14=100
Unaffiliated	73	14	13=100

Q78. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Ideology is a substantial factor within the Republican Party. Moderate and liberal Republicans support this policy by a 63% to 23% margin, while conservative Republicans are

more opposed (40% favor, 49% oppose). Three quarters of liberal Democrats (75%) support allowing gays to serve in the military while just 13% oppose the proposal. An only slightly smaller majority of conservative and moderate Democrats (65%) favors permitting gays to serve openly while 27% are opposed.

More women (66%) than men (55%) favor letting gays and lesbians serve openly in the military, but the gender gap is mostly among younger Americans. Fully 73% of women under age 50 back gays serving openly in the military, compared with 57% men under 50. Among people age 50 and older, there is little gender gap (58% of women, 52% of men).

There also are differences among religious groups in views on this issue. Nearly three quarters (73%) of religiously unaffiliated Americans favor allowing gays to serve; smaller majorities of white mainline Protestants (67%) and white Catholics (65%) express this view. By comparison, 41% of white evangelical Protestants support allowing gays to serve openly in the armed forces while 45% are opposed, though this is a slight decrease in opposition from March 2009 (when 55% were opposed).

### Supreme Court Favorability Down Slightly

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United vs. FEC*, which struck down major restrictions on corporate contributions to political campaigns, the court has a favorability rating of 58%. This is a slight decrease from the 64% of Americans who had a favorable view of the high court in April 2009. About a quarter (27%) of Americans hold an unfavorable view of the court.

These are the lowest ratings of the court since July 2007, when 57% held a favorable view and 29% held an unfavorable view of the institution. At that time – the conclusion of the first full year with two Bush appointments on the court and some controversial decisions on topics including abortion and school desegregation – partisanship was a substantial factor. Just 49% of Democrats viewed the court favorably compared with 73% of Republicans. The partisan gap is much smaller today, though Republicans continue to be slightly more favorable toward the Court than Democrats (64% vs. 57%).

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Feb 2010	58	64	57	57
April 2009	64	70	63	64
April 2008	65	80	64	60
July 2007	57	73	49	58
Jan 2007	72	81	66	74
July 2006	63	71	57	66
Feb 2006	60	77	45	65
Oct 2005	62	72	59	60
July 2005	61	69	57	59
June 2005	57	64	51	61
Q25d.				

A large majority of Americans disapprove of the recent Supreme Court decision that allows corporations to spend on behalf of candidates in elections. Almost seven-in-ten (68%) disapprove of that decision, with only 17% approving. Republicans are slightly more likely to approve of the ruling, though only 22% saying they approve while 65% disapprove. Among Democrats, only 13% approve of the ruling while 76% disapprove.

When asked how much, if anything, they had heard of the Supreme Court’s decision on campaign finance rules, 19% had heard a lot, 46% a little, and 35% had heard nothing at all. Regardless of how much people have heard, the vast majority express disapproval of the decision, though people who heard a lot about the case are somewhat more likely to approve (29%) than people who heard only a little (17%) or nothing (11%) about it.

The minority of Americans who approve of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United vs. FEC* have a more favorable opinion of the court overall. Roughly three-quarters (74%) of those who approve of the recent decision have a favorable view of the court, compared with 55% of those who disapprove of the ruling.

<b>Most Disapprove of Supreme Court Decision, But Conservatives Less So</b>				
	App-rove %	Dis-approve %	DK %	N
Total	17	68	15=100	1383
Republican	22	65	14=100	391
Conserv Rep	26	63	11=100	272
Mod/Lib Rep	14	70	15=100	110
Democrat	13	76	11=100	438
Mod/Cons Dem	14	73	12=100	282
Liberal Dem	11	81	8=100	139
Independent	19	66	15=100	472
<i>How much have you heard about the court decision?</i>				
A lot	29	68	4=100	339
A little	17	72	11=100	639
Nothing at all	11	64	25=100	392
Q31. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				



## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,383 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from February 3-9, 2010 (1,024 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 359 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 132 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. 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 2009 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 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the 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	1,383	3.5 percentage points
Registered voters	1,129	3.5 percentage points
Form 1	678	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	705	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	391	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	438	6.0 percentage points
Independents	472	5.5 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:

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research  
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors  
Michael Remez, Senior Writer  
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Jacob Poushter, Research Assistant

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 3-9, 2010**  
**N=1,383**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**

**ASK ALL:**

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>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	October, 2003	38	56	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	August, 2003	40	53	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	May, 2002	44	44	12
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	March, 2002	50	40	10
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	June, 2001	43	52	5
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	March, 2001	47	45	8
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 2001	55	41	4
July, 2008	19	74	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
June, 2008	19	76	5	September, 2000	51	41	8
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2000	47	45	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
October, 2007	28	66	6	November, 1998	46	44	10
February, 2007	30	61	9	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
December, 2006	28	65	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
July, 2006	30	65	5	August, 1997	49	46	5
May, 2006*	29	65	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	July, 1996	29	67	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	March, 1996	28	70	2
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
July, 2005	35	58	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	July, 1994	24	73	3
February, 2005	38	56	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
January, 2005	40	54	6	October, 1993	22	73	5
December, 2004	39	54	7	September, 1993	20	75	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
July, 2004	38	55	7	January, 1993	39	50	11
May, 2004	33	61	6	January, 1992	28	68	4
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	November, 1991	34	61	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3
				August, 1990	47	48	5
				May, 1990	41	54	5
				January, 1989	45	50	5
				September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

<sup>1</sup> From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**NO QUESTION 3**

**QUESTIONS 4-5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

**NO QUESTIONS 6-7**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject, the next congressional elections will be coming up later this year...

Q.8 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: “the Republican Party’s candidate” OR “the Democratic Party’s candidate”] for Congress in your district?

**ASK IF ANSWERED OTHER OR DON’T KNOW (Q.8=3 OR Q.8=9):**

Q.9 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.8 IF NECESSARY: for U.S. Congress in your district]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,129]:**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	45	13
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	46	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	47	11
Aug 20-27, 2009	44	45	10
<b>2008 Election</b>			
June, 2008	37	52	11
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	40	48	12
Late October, 2006	38	49	13
Early October, 2006	38	51	11
September, 2006	39	50	11
August, 2006	41	50	9
June, 2006	39	51	10
April, 2006	41	51	8
February, 2006	41	50	9
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8
<b>2004 Election</b>			
June, 2004	41	48	11
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early November, 2002	42	46	12
Early October, 2002	44	46	10
Early September, 2002	44	46	10
June, 2002	44	46	10
February, 2002	46	45	9
Early November, 2001	44	44	12
<b>2000 Election</b>			
Early November, 2000	42	48	10
Early October, 2000	43	47	10
July, 2000	43	47	10
February, 2000	44	47	9
October, 1999	43	49	8
June, 1999	40	50	10
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	40	47	13
Early October, 1998	43	44	13
Early September, 1998	45	46	9
Late August, 1998	44	45	11
Early August, 1998	42	49	9
June, 1998	44	46	10
March, 1998	40	52	8
February, 1998	41	50	9
January, 1998	41	51	8
August, 1997	45	48	7

**Q.8/Q.9 CONTINUED...**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
<b>1996 Election</b>			
November, 1996 <sup>2</sup>	44	48	8
October, 1996	42	49	9
Late September, 1996	43	49	8
Early September, 1996	43	51	6
July, 1996	46	47	7
June, 1996	44	50	6
March, 1996	44	49	7
January, 1996	46	47	7
October, 1995	48	48	4
August, 1995	50	43	7
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	45	43	12
Late October, 1994	47	44	9
Early October, 1994	52	40	8
September, 1994	48	46	6
July, 1994	45	47	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district – national issues, local or state issues, the candidate’s political party, or the candidate’s character and experience? **[IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?]**

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,129]:**

	National <u>issues</u>	Local/State <u>issues</u>	Political <u>party</u>	Character/ <u>Experience</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>None</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/ Ref.</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	31	27	5	30	2	*	5
<b>2006 Election</b>							
November, 2006	34	29	6	22	3	1	5
September, 2006	29	33	5	27	1	2	3
June, 2006	30	26	6	33	2	*	3
<b>2002 Election</b>							
Early November, 2002	23	38	7	26	2	*	4
Early October, 2002	28	35	5	25	2	1	4
June, 2002	26	30	5	33	2	1	3
<b>2000 Election</b>							
Early October, 2000	21	42	9	21	1	1	5
July, 2000	18	40	6	32	1	1	2
<b>1998 Election</b>							
Late October, 1998	20	39	5	27	3	2	4
Early October, 1998	23	36	7	28	1	*	5
Early September, 1998	22	34	5	33	2	*	4
Early August, 1998	20	38	5	31	2	*	4
June, 1998	22	37	4	32	1	1	3
March, 1998	18	37	6	35	1	1	2
<b>1996 Election</b>							
November, 1996	23	38	6	25	2	*	6
October, 1996	19	45	7	26	1	1	1
Late September, 1996	25	38	6	24	2	*	5
Early September, 1996	18	42	6	30	1	*	3

<sup>2</sup> November 1996 trends based on likely voters.

**Q.10 CONTINUED...**

	National <u>issues</u>	Local/State <u>issues</u>	Political <u>party</u>	Character/ <u>Experience</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>None</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u>
<b>1994 Election</b>							
November, 1994	22	38	5	30	1	*	4
Late October, 1994	22	38	3	29	3	1	4
Early October, 1994	22	27	5	39	2	1	4
<b>1986 Election</b>							
CBS/NYT: 10/24-28, 1986	22	25	6	40	1	1	5
CBS/NYT: 9/28-10/1, 1986	20	23	9	41	3	*	4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,129]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Congressperson <u>not running</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	31	*	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	29	1	18
<b>2008 Election</b>				
Late February, 2008	60	22	1	17
<b>2006 Election</b>				
November, 2006	55	25	1	19
Late October, 2006	55	26	1	18
Early October, 2006	50	27	1	22
September, 2006	53	27	1	19
August, 2006	51	30	*	19
June, 2006	51	32	1	16
April, 2006	57	28	1	14
February, 2006	59	28	1	12
Mid-September, 2005	57	25	1	17
<b>2002 Election</b>				
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21
June, 2002	58	23	1	18
<b>2000 Election</b>				
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23
October, 2000	60	17	1	22
July, 1999	66	23	*	11
<b>1998 Election</b>				
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16
March, 1998	63	21	1	15
January, 1998	66	23	0	11
August, 1997	66	22	0	12
<b>1996 Election</b>				
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21
October, 1996	62	19	2	17
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17
<b>1994 Election</b>				
November, 1994	58	25	1	16

**Q.11 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Congressperson <u>not running</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20
<b>1990 Election</b>				
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,129]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	53	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	34	53	13
<b>2008 Election</b>			
Late February, 2008	36	49	15
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	37	46	17
Late October, 2006	34	49	17
Early October, 2006	32	48	20
September, 2006	35	49	16
August, 2006	36	49	15
June, 2006	29	57	14
April, 2006	34	53	13
February, 2006	36	49	15
September, 2005	36	48	16
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early October, 2002	39	38	23
June, 2002	45	37	18
<b>2000 Election</b>			
October, 2000	40	34	26
July, 1999	41	47	12
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	41	37	22
Early October, 1998	39	39	22
Early September, 1998	46	37	17
March, 1998	45	41	14
January, 1998	44	43	13
August, 1997	45	42	13
<b>1996 Election</b>			
Early September, 1996	43	43	14
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	31	51	18
Late October, 1994	31	56	13
Early October, 1994	28	56	16



**ASK ALL:**

Q.13 Will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote for Congress this year, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,129]:**

	Yes, will be <u>a factor</u>	No, <u>will not</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	45	6
<b>2008 Election</b>			
June, 2008	44	51	5
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	61	36	3
Late October, 2006	61	36	3
Early October, 2006	57	40	3
September, 2006	55	41	4
June, 2006	58	39	3
April, 2006	56	39	5
<b>2004 Election</b>			
June, 2004	43	51	6
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early November, 2002	48	49	3
Early October, 2002	42	55	3
Early September, 2002	44	51	5
June, 2002	47	50	3
February, 2002	46	49	5
<b>2000 Election</b>			
Early October, 2000	46	50	4
July, 2000	46	49	5
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 1998	47	49	4
Early September, 1998	41	56	3
Early August, 1998	44	53	3
June, 1998	45	51	4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.14 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote FOR Barack Obama, as a vote AGAINST Barack Obama, or isn't Barack Obama much of a factor in your vote?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,129]:**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	(VOL.) <u>Not a factor</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	24	20	51	5
<b>2006 Election</b>				
<b>Bush:</b> November, 2006	21	35	41	3
<b>Bush:</b> Late October, 2006	20	37	38	5
<b>Bush:</b> Early October, 2006	18	39	40	3
<b>Bush:</b> September, 2006	20	36	40	4
<b>Bush:</b> August, 2006	17	35	43	5
<b>Bush:</b> June, 2006	15	38	44	3
<b>Bush:</b> April, 2006	17	34	46	3
<b>Bush:</b> February, 2006	18	31	47	4
<b>2002 Election</b>				
<b>Bush:</b> Early November, 2002	29	16	49	6
<b>Bush:</b> Early October, 2002	30	20	44	6
<b>Bush:</b> Early September, 2002	29	15	51	5
<b>Bush:</b> February, 2002	34	9	50	7
<b>1998 Election</b>				
<b>Clinton:</b> Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5
<b>Clinton:</b> Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3
<b>Clinton:</b> Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2
<b>Clinton:</b> Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4
<b>Clinton:</b> June, 1998	20	18	57	5
<b>Clinton:</b> March, 1998	21	15	59	5
<b>1996 Election</b>				
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1996	24	18	51	7
<b>1994 Election</b>				
<b>Clinton:</b> November, 1994	17	21	55	7
<b>Clinton:</b> Late October, 1994	17	21	57	5
<b>Clinton:</b> Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6
<b>1990 Election</b>				
<b>CBS/NYT Bush:</b> 10/28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6
<b>1986 Election</b>				
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 10/24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 9/28-10/1, 1986	26	16	51	7
<b>1982 Election</b>				
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 10/23-28, 1982	23	21	51	5

**NO QUESTIONS 15 AND 16**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.17 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

Feb <u>10</u> <sup>3</sup>		Early					Mid-					Mid-							
		Aug <u>09</u>	Feb <u>09</u>	Oct <u>08</u>	July <u>08</u>	Jan <u>08</u>	Sept <u>07</u>	Jan <u>07</u>	Sept <u>06</u>	Jan <u>06</u>	May <u>05</u>	Jan <u>05</u>	July <u>04</u>	Jan <u>04</u>	Apr <u>03</u>	Feb <u>03</u>	Mar <u>02</u>	May <u>01</u>	Feb <u>01</u>
31	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	19	31	9	5	5	3	5	4	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
24	Economy (general)	27	53	55	39	20	10	5	9	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
13	Health care/costs/accessibility	20	3	4	3	10	7	8	4	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced																		
11	budget/Govt spending	6	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics/ Obama/Gov't control/socialism	5	5	4	3	6	7	8	6	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
4	War/War in Iraq/War in Afghan.	5	3	11	17	27	37	42	25	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10	--	--
4	Financial crisis	7	16	26	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	Morality/Ethics/Family values	3	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
2	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	1	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	1	--	--	--	--	--
2	Terrorism	1	1	2	3	3	6	5	14	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	--
	Education/schools/affording																		
1	education	2	1	--	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
	Defense issues/Military spending/ National & homeland security	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
1	Immigration	1	1	1	2	6	6	5	6	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
1	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
1	Taxes	--	--	1	--	2	1	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	3	3
	Crime/Violence/gangs/ justice system	1	1	--	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
1	Homelessness	--	--	--	--	1	--	2	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
	Recession/Depression/Slowing down of the economy	2	3	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2
	Environment/pollution/ Global warming	--	1	1	3	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	3	1	
11	Other																		
6	Don't know/No answer	5	3	4	4	5	5	7	7	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
<b>11</b>	<b>(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/</b>																		
	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>(NET) ECONOMIC</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>

<sup>3</sup> Complete trend for Q.17 not shown.

**ASK IF ANSWER GIVEN IN Q.17 (Q.17=1) [N=1,305]:**

Q.18 Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you just mentioned – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? [IF NECESSARY: thinking about what you see as the most important problem ...]

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) No difference	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Feb 3-9, 2010	31	38	19	12
Aug 27-30, 2009	23	38	28	11
January, 2007	24	42	21	13
January, 2006	27	41	19	13
January, 2005	36	35	18	11
Mid-January, 2004	35	35	14	16
March, 2002	38	27	21	14
January, 1999 <sup>4</sup> (Gallup)	33	43	n/a	24
April, 1998 (Gallup)	40	42	10	8
July, 1996	36	35	18	11
April, 1995	42	32	17	9
July, 1994	36	33	16	15
June, 1993	28	35	23	14
January, 1992	32	41	12	15
May, 1990 (RVs)	29	30	31	10
May, 1988	26	38	22	14
January, 1988	30	35	24	11
May, 1987	28	38	24	10

**ASK IF ‘REPUBLICAN PARTY’ (Q.18=1) [N=433]:**

Q.19 Should Republican political leaders be willing to compromise with the Democrats on this issue, or should they stick to their position without compromising?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		January <u>2007</u>
52	Should be willing to compromise	63
39	Should stick to their positions	30
9	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	7

**ASK IF ‘DEMOCRATIC PARTY’ (Q.18=2) [N=473]:**

Q.20 Should Democratic political leaders be willing to compromise with the Republicans on this issue, or should they stick to their position without compromising?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		January <u>2007</u>
71	Should be willing to compromise	60
24	Should stick to their positions	34
6	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	6

**NO QUESTIONS 21 THROUGH 24**

<sup>4</sup> In January 1999, the “no difference” and “don’t know” categories are combined.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.25 Thinking more generally ... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THROUGH d. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS e. THROUGH h. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS i. THROUGH k. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS l. AND m. LAST] 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.)	(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
<b>ASK ALL:</b>								
a. The Republican Party								
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11

**Q.25 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8

**Q.25 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7
d. The Supreme Court								
Feb 3-9, 2010	58	8	50	27	8	19	*	15
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	64	8	56	21	6	15	0	15
April, 2008	65	15	50	25	7	18	*	10
July, 2007	57	12	45	29	9	20	0	14
January, 2007	72	18	54	17	3	14	2	9
July, 2006	63	7	56	27	8	19	1	9
February, 2006	60	16	44	28	10	18	*	12
Late October, 2005	62	12	50	27	10	17	*	11
July, 2005	61	12	49	28	10	18	*	11
June, 2005	57	8	49	30	8	22	*	13

**Q.25 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
July, 2001	70	15	55	20	6	14	*	10
March, 2001	72	15	57	20	5	15	*	8
January, 2001	68	18	50	21	8	13	1	10
October, 1997	77	13	64	18	6	12	*	5
May, 1997	72	16	56	22	5	17	0	6
July, 1994	80	18	62	16	3	13	*	4
May, 1993	73	17	56	18	4	14	0	9
November, 1991	72	18	54	21	5	16	0	7
May, 1990	65	10	55	25	7	18	1	9
January, 1988	79	14	65	13	2	11	*	8
May, 1987	76	13	63	17	2	15	*	7
March 1985 (Roper)	64	17	47	28	7	21	--	8

**QUESTION 25e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

f. Major U.S. banks and financial institutions Feb 3-9, 2010	25	4	21	68	29	39	*	7
g. U.S. automakers Feb 3-9, 2010	43	7	36	45	12	34	1	11
h. Technology companies Feb 3-9, 2010	71	17	54	13	3	10	1	15
March, 2005	78	19	59	12	3	9	0	10

**QUESTIONS 25i-k HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

i. The Tea Party movement Feb 3-9, 2010	33	10	23	25	10	14	19	23
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**NO QUESTION 26**

**ASK FORM A ONLY [N=679]:**

Q.27a What do you think the Republican Party stands for these days? [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW." ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.]

Feb 3-9  
2010

- 7 For the rich/Against the poor
- 6 Money/greed
- 6 Own political gain/What is best for them
- 5 For big business/corporate interests
- 4 Anti-Obama/Anti-Democrats/Party of "No"
- 4 Conservatism/Conservative values
- 4 For smaller/less government
- 3 Unclear/they don't know/nothing
- 3 Cutting/lowering taxes
- 3 Concern for the country
- 2 More jobs/improving economy
- 2 Smaller budgets/Less gov't spending/Fiscal responsibility
- 2 Against terrorism/For national security



**Q.27a CONTINUED...**

Feb 3-9

2010

- 1 Pro-business/free enterprise
- 1 Not for change/Old-fashioned
- 1 Against Democrats'/Obama's health care
- 1 Individual responsibility/rights
- 1 Christian/Traditional values
- 1 Honesty/Integrity
- 1 The Constitution
- 1 Keeping whites/"good old boys" in power
- 1 Pro-life/Anti-abortion
- 1 Dishonesty/Corruption
- 1 Common sense
- 1 Radical right/Extreme
- \* Other
- 33 Don't know/Refused

**ASK FORM B ONLY [N=704]:**

Q.27b What do you think the Democratic Party stands for these days? **[OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW." ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.]**

Feb 3-9

2010

- 12 Average person/middle class
- 7 Big government
- 6 Working class/Poor people
- 5 Own political gains/What is best for them
- 5 Socialism/Communism
- 4 Equality/Equal rights
- 4 Health care/reform
- 3 Liberalism/Progressivism
- 3 Trying to improve the economy/increase jobs
- 3 Unclear/they don't know/nothing
- 3 Change
- 3 Taxes/Higher taxes
- 2 Making nation stronger/solving problems
- 2 Government control
- 1 Abortion/Pro-choice
- 1 They are liars/crooks/corrupt
- 1 Wall Street/Big business/The rich
- 1 Social issues
- 1 Unions
- 1 Godless/against moral values
- \* Other
- 29 Don't know/Refused

**ASK FORM A ONLY [N=679]:**

Q.28 Over the past year, do you think the Republican Party has done a good job or a poor job of offering solutions to the country's problems?

		<b>GALLUP</b>	
Feb 3-9		Mar 28-30	
<u>2010</u>		<u>1994</u>	
29	Good job	41	
60	Poor job	51	
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	

**ASK FORM B ONLY [N=704]:**

Q.29 Over the past year, do you think the Democratic Party has done a good job or a poor job of offering solutions to the country's problems?

Feb 3-9	
<u>2010</u>	
40	Good job
52	Poor job
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.30 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the Supreme Court's decision on campaign finance rules that now allows corporations to spend on behalf of candidates in elections? Have you heard...

**[READ]**

Feb 3-9	
<u>2010</u>	
19	A lot
46	A little
35	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.31 Do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision that allows corporations to spend on behalf of candidates in elections?

Feb 3-9	
<u>2010</u>	
17	Approve
68	Disapprove
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:**

Q.32F1 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

Feb 3-9		Dec 9-13	Sep 30- Oct 4	Jul 22-26	Jun 10-14	Apr 14-21	Mar 9-12
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
24	Better	30	31	24	26	26	14
27	Worse	24	20	21	16	17	15
42	No effect so far	39	42	46	49	47	64
3	Too soon/early to tell (VOL.)	3	4	3	4	6	4
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3	6	4	4	3

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:**

Q.33F1 So far, do you think Barack Obama is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
47	Trying to address too many issues at once	45	45	41	34	35
8	Focusing on too few issues [OR]	8	9	3	4	4
37	Doing about right	42	41	48	56	56
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	6	8	6	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.34 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... **[READ, RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>
44	Liberal members of his party [OR]	43	44	41	39	40	44	34
35	Moderate members of his party	31	32	31	35	33	30	44
21	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	25	24	27	26	27	26	22

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:**

On a different subject...

Q.35F1 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Late-Oct <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	----CBS/New York Times ----					
							Nov <u>2003</u>	July <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>	Jan <u>2001</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	Feb <u>1996</u>
50	Smaller government, fewer services	51	48	42	47	45	45	48	46	51	46	61
40	Bigger government, more services	40	40	43	42	43	42	40	40	36	43	30
3	Depends (VOL.)	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	5	4
7	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	6	9	11	7	8	9	7	11	8	6	5

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:**

Q.36F1 Is it now a good idea or a bad idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
46	Good idea	54
42	Bad idea	37
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=705]:**

Q.37F2 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?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
59	Good idea	54	60
33	Bad idea	38	31
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	9

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=705]:**

Q.38F2 If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on [OPTION] or a higher priority on [OPTION]?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Jul 22-26 <sup>5</sup> <u>2009</u>	Jun 18-21 <u>2009</u>
47	Spending more to help the economy recover	53	48
47	Reducing the budget deficit	38	46
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	6

**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 <sup>6</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

5 In July, 2009, question was asked as part of a list.

6 Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	(VOL.)			
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek</i> (RVs)	35	13	49	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=705]:**

Q.AF2 Who do you think is more responsible for the current economic conditions [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

		<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>					
		----- CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll <sup>7</sup> :-----					
Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Nov 13-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 28-31 <u>2009</u>	Jul 31-Aug 3 <u>2009</u>	May 14-17 <u>2009</u>	Jan 12-15 <u>2009</u>
39	The Republican Party	39	38	41	44	53	50
27	The Democratic Party	27	27	27	23	21	22
19	Both (VOL.)	19	27	26	24	22	20
5	Neither/Other (VOL.)	6	6	4	7	4	6
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	2	1	3	1	1

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=705]:**

Q.41F2 In your opinion, is President Obama doing as much as he can to improve economic conditions or do you think he could be doing more?

	Doing as much as he can	Could be doing more	(VOL.) Can't say/ DK/Ref
Feb 3-9, 2010	43	50	7
Mar 9-12, 2009	60	30	10
<b>G. W. Bush</b>			
February, 2004	30	65	5
September, 2003	26	70	4
Early July, 2003	33	62	5
May, 2003	42	53	5
Late March, 2003	41	52	7
January, 2003	33	61	6
Early October, 2002	31	63	6
June, 2002	33	62	5
January, 2002	48	46	6
<b>Bush, Sr.</b>			
March, 1992	21	76	3
January, 1992	21	76	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=705]:**

Q.42F2 Do you think Barack Obama has proposed spending [READ ANSWER CHOICES BELOW AND RANDOMIZE] to address the economic situation?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
35	Too much money	39
20	Not enough money [OR]	13
33	About the right amount	34
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14

**NO QUESTIONS 43 THROUGH 47**

<sup>7</sup> CNN/Opinion Research Corporation question was worded "Do you think the Democrats or the Republicans are more responsible for the country's current economic problems?"

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:**

Q.48F1 From what you've read and heard, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by Congress last February?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <sup>8</sup> <u>2009</u>
38	Approve	44	55
49	Disapprove	44	39
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	6

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:**

Q.49F1 In 2008, the government made loans of roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this was the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to do?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Mar 9-12 <sup>9</sup> <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	-NII- Nov 14-17 <u>2008</u>	Mid Oct <u>2008</u>	Late Sept <u>2008</u>	-NII- Sept 19-22 <u>2008</u>
40	Right thing	48	47	40	47	45	57
51	Wrong thing	40	43	43	37	38	30
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	10	17	16	17	13

**NO QUESTIONS 50 THROUGH 63**

<sup>8</sup> In June 2009, the question was worded "roughly 800 billion ..."

<sup>9</sup> In March 2009, question read "In addition to the economic stimulus program Congress recently passed, the government is investing roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. ..." In December 2008 the question was worded: "As you may know, the government is investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" November and October surveys did not include the phrase "of dollars" after "billions." In Late September 2008 and in the September 19-22 News Interest Index (NII) the question was worded, "As you may know, the government is potentially investing billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" In Late September 2008, an experiment testing the word "committing" instead of "investing" showed no difference in the results. Results for the two versions have been combined.

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the political parties for a moment...

**RANDOMIZE Q.64 AND Q.65****ASK ALL:**

Q.64 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] How about [NEXT ITEM]?

			(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	
	Republican	Democratic	Both	Neither	DK/Ref	
	Party	Party	equally			
a.	Can better manage the federal government					
	Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
	Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
	October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
	March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
	Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
	April, 2006 <sup>10</sup>	35	39	3	15	8
	January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
	Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
	July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
	Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
	August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
	July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
	April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
	July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
	May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
	July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
	May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9
	May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
	January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
	May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10
b.	Can bring about the kind of changes the country needs					
	Feb 3-9, 2010	34	46	4	9	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	5	13	9
	October, 2007	26	48	5	11	10
	March, 2007	26	52	4	9	9
	Early October, 2006	28	48	4	10	10
	April, 2006	32	47	2	12	7
	Early October, 2005	32	48	4	9	7
	July, 2004	35	46	3	7	9
	Early September, 1998	34	40	7	8	11
	March, 1998	32	45	7	8	8
	August, 1997	38	40	4	11	7
	July, 1996	39	46	2	7	6
	April, 1995	51	34	4	7	4
	July, 1994	39	42	4	10	5
	May, 1993	30	49	2	10	9
	July, 1992	24	47	2	16	11
	May, 1990	27	31	13	18	11
	May, 1988	27	43	9	11	10

<sup>10</sup>

In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."



**Q.64 CONTINUED ...**

	Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>			
January, 1988	28	37	14	11	10
May, 1987	26	36	14	14	10
c. Is more concerned with the needs of people like me					
Feb 3-9, 2010	31	51	3	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	51	4	10	7
October, 2007	25	54	4	8	9
March, 2007	26	55	2	7	10
Early October, 2006	27	55	3	8	7
April, 2006 <sup>11</sup>	28	52	3	10	7
Early October, 2005	30	52	5	7	6
July, 2004	30	50	5	8	7
Early September, 1998	31	46	5	9	9
March, 1998	30	51	4	8	7
August, 1997	31	49	3	10	7
July, 1996	35	50	2	7	6
April, 1995	39	49	2	7	3
July, 1994	35	49	4	8	4
May, 1990	21	42	12	18	7
May, 1988	23	51	8	11	7
January, 1988	22	47	11	13	7
d. Selects better candidates for office					
Feb 3-9, 2010	35	42	3	10	10
Aug 27-30, 2009	28	46	3	13	11
October, 2007	32	41	6	10	11
July, 1998	34	33	9	12	12
March, 1998 <sup>12</sup>	32	33	12	12	11
July, 1994	40	36	6	13	5
May, 1990	32	22	21	17	8
May, 1988	28	30	13	19	10
January, 1988	31	24	18	18	9
May, 1987	27	26	25	13	9
e. Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests					
Feb 3-9, 2010	40	32	14	2	11
Aug 27-30, 2009	37	31	17	3	12
March, 2007	40	30	15	1	14
Early October, 2006	41	27	16	2	14
April, 2006	45	28	14	2	11

<sup>11</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Is concerned with the needs of people like me."

<sup>12</sup> In March 1998 and earlier, the item was worded: "Selects good candidates for office."

**RANDOMIZE Q.64 AND Q.65**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.65 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] How about [NEXT ITEM]?

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both Equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Dealing with the economy					
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	41	7	6	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	32	42	6	12	9
February, 2008	34	53	2	5	6
October, 2006	32	45	4	5	14
September, 2006	32	46	5	5	12
February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8
Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6
July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13
Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13
January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18
May, 2001 <sup>13</sup>	33	44	8	5	10
June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9
March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9
Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10
March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5
October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10
Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9
Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28
b. Reforming the U.S. health care system					
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	45	6	10	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	46	4	14	9
February, 2008	26	56	3	8	7
October, 2006	25	46	4	8	17
September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13
February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7
July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13
Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15
January, 2002 <sup>14</sup>	20	45	--	6	29
January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16
January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22
Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12
March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8
October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10
July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8
December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18
January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15
May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14

<sup>13</sup> In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"

<sup>14</sup> From 1999 to 2002, the item was worded: "Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans." In December 1993, the item was worded: "Reforming health care." In January 1992 and May 1990 the item was worded: "Improving health care in the U.S."

**Q.65 CONTINUED ...**

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>		
c.	Reducing the federal budget deficit					
	Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
	September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
	February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
	Early October, 2005 <sup>15</sup>	29	47	6	10	8
	June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
	July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
	December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15
d.	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home					
	Feb 3-9, 2010	46	29	10	5	10
	Aug 27-30, 2009	38	32	10	9	12
	February, 2008	45	38	6	4	7
	October, 2006	39	33	7	6	15
	September, 2006	41	32	7	6	14
	February, 2006	46	30	8	7	9
	Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8
	July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16
	Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14
	January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28
e.	Dealing with the nation's energy problems					
	Feb 3-9, 2010	32	44	8	6	10
	Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	7	9	12
	February, 2008	23	57	5	5	10
	October, 2006	28	44	5	6	17
	September, 2006	27	47	4	7	15
	February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10
	Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11
	May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13
f.	Improving the educational system					
	Feb 3-9, 2010	29	48	8	8	8
	Aug 27-30, 2009	22	47	8	12	10
	February, 2008	26	55	6	6	7
	October, 2006	27	45	5	6	17
	September, 2006	28	46	7	6	13
	February, 2006	33	44	8	7	8
	Mid-September, 2005	35	44	6	7	8
	July, 2004	29	45	7	7	12
	January, 2002	37	34	--	6	23
	May, 2001	36	38	11	6	9
	January, 2001	40	41	--	7	12
	June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7
	March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10
	January, 1999	26	46	--	7	21

<sup>15</sup>

In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

**Q.65 CONTINUED ...**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>Equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10
March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7
July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8
January, 1992	28	48	--	10	14
May, 1990	30	42	--	14	14

**ASK ALL:**

Next ...

Q.66 Please tell me if each of the following is something that makes you angry, something that bothers you but doesn't make you angry, or is this something that does not bother you. (First,) Does **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** make you angry, bother you but not make you angry, or does this not bother you? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	<u>Angry</u>	Bothers, <u>but not angry</u>	Doesn't <u>bother</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The growing federal budget deficit				
Feb 3-9, 2010	37	48	13	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	37	46	14	3
b. The government bailing out banks and financial institutions that made poor financial decisions <sup>16</sup>				
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	38	12	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	39	12	1
c. Banks and financial institutions paying large bonuses to their executives				
Feb 3-9, 2010	62	24	12	2
d. The gridlock between Republicans and Democrats in Washington				
Feb 3-9, 2010	39	36	21	4

**NO QUESTIONS 67 THROUGH 70**

**QUESTIONS 71F1-73dF2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

<sup>16</sup>

In March 2009, question read "Bailing out banks and financial institutions that made poor financial decisions."

**NO QUESTION 74**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about health care...

Q.75 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system?  
Have you heard...[READ]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	39	11	*
Jan 6-10, 2010	46	45	8	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	51	39	9	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	49	42	7	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	46	43	10	1
Sep 10-15, 2009	60	34	5	1
Aug 20-27, 2009	53	40	7	1
Jul 22-26, 2009	41	47	10	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.76 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>	Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Nov 12-15 <u>2009</u>	Oct 28- Nov 8 <u>2009</u>	Sep 30- Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>
38	Generally favor	39	35	42	38	34	42	39	38
50	Generally oppose	48	48	39	47	47	44	46	44
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13	17	19	15	19	14	15	18

**ASK IF OPPOSE (Q.76=2) [N=722]:**

Q.77 If you had to choose, would prefer that Congress keep working on a health care bill, or would you prefer Congress to pass nothing and leave the current system as it is?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	
46	Keep working
51	Pass nothing
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about another topic...

Q.78 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?

	-----FAVOR----- <i>Strongly</i>			-----OPPOSE----- <i>Strongly</i>			<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Feb 3-9, 2010	61	18	43	27	10	17	12
Mar 9-12, 2009 <sup>17</sup>	59	19	40	32	13	19	9
March, 2006	60	20	40	32	13	19	8
July, 2005	58	15	43	32	15	17	10
July, 1994	52	16	36	45	26	19	3

<sup>17</sup>

In March 2009 and earlier, question appeared on a list.

**ASK ALL:**

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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
Mar 9-12, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
Feb 4-8, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

REPJOB How good a job is the Republican Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values — in general, would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=597]:**

		Mar 31- Mid-		Late		Mid- Late								(RVs)
Feb 3-9		Apr 21	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jun	Apr	Sep	Mar	Jul	Aug	May	May	Sep
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
3	Excellent	3	4	5	7	6	6	4	8	12	6	6	10	6
31	Good	18	31	31	35	36	41	44	43	49	51	49	50	43
49	Only fair	54	44	49	41	44	41	41	36	33	37	38	32	44
14	Poor	23	19	13	15	10	10	8	9	4	5	5	5	5
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	4	2	1	2	3	2

**ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):**

DEMJOB How good a job is the Democratic Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people — in general, would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

**BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=637]:**

		Mar 31- Mid-		Late		Mid- Late								(RVs)
Feb 3-9		Apr 21	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jun	Apr	Sep	Mar	Jul	Aug	May	May	Sep
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
8	Excellent	10	9	4	6	4	5	3	3	6	5	5	8	11
47	Good	45	41	35	37	30	35	32	30	43	33	39	39	52
36	Only fair	39	36	48	45	51	48	49	51	40	51	43	40	32
7	Poor	4	11	9	7	13	11	14	14	8	9	10	7	4
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	4	5	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	6	1